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MONTHLY
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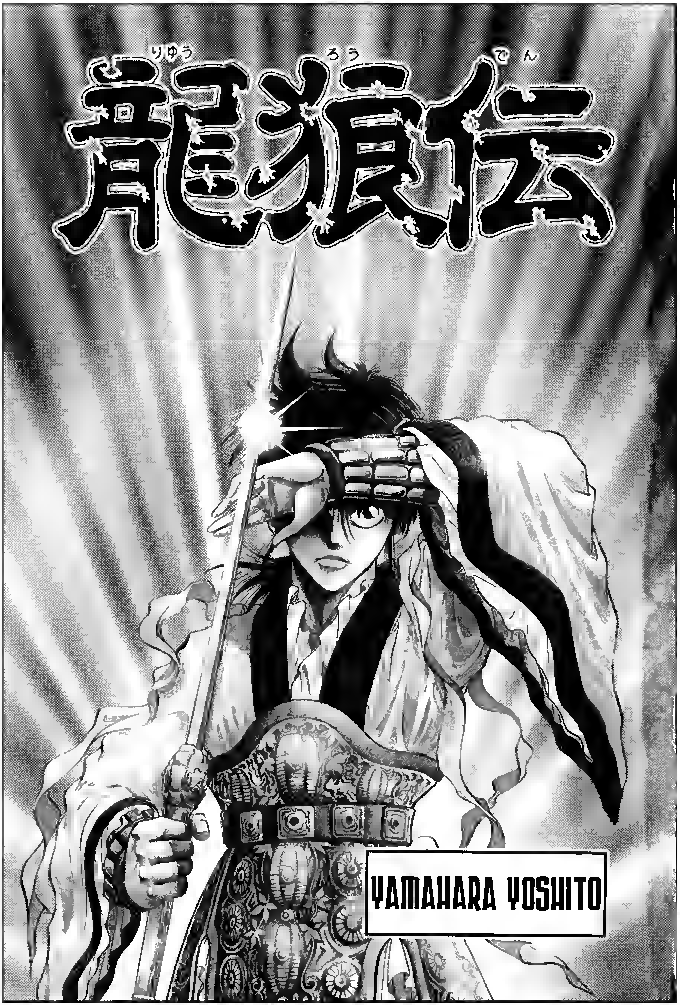
著者自画像

RYUURODEN



CHARACTERS
LIU BEI
ZHANG FEI
GUAN YU
TENCHI SHIRO
MASUMI AMACHI
ZHAO YUN
ZHOU YU
KONG MING
LIAN HUA
CAO CAO
GAN NING
CHUN TA
ZHOU YU
SUN QUAN

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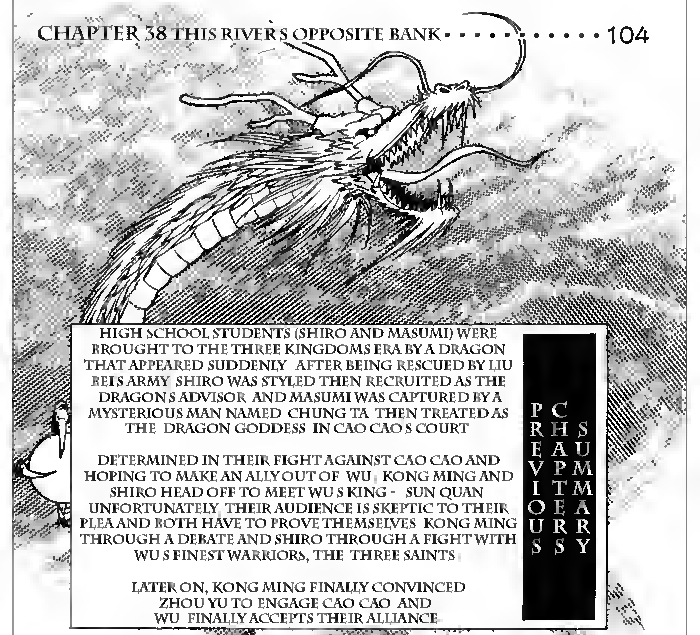


PREVIOUS CHARACTERS SUMMARY

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (SHIRO AND MASUMI) WERE BROUGHT TO THE THREE KINGDOMS ERA BY A DRAGON THAT APPEARED SUDDENLY. AFTER BEING RESCUED BY LIU BEI'S ARMY, SHIRO WAS STYLED THEN RECRUITED AS THE DRAGON'S ADVISOR, AND MASUMI WAS CAPTURED BY A MYSTERIOUS MAN NAMED CHUNG TA. THEN TREATED AS THE DRAGON GODDESS IN CAO CAO'S COURT.

DETERMINED IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST CAO CAO AND HOPING TO MAKE AN ALLY OUT OF WU, KONG MING AND SHIRO HEAD OFF TO MEET WU'S KING - SUN QUAN. UNFORTUNATELY, THEIR AUDIENCE IS SKEPTIC TO THEIR PLEA AND BOTH HAVE TO PROVE THEMSELVES. KONG MING THROUGH A DEBATE AND SHIRO THROUGH A FIGHT WITH WU'S FINEST WARRIORS, THE THREE SAINTS.

LATER ON, KONG MING FINALLY CONVINCED ZHOU YU TO ENGAGE CAO CAO AND WU. FINALLY ACCEPTS THEIR ALLIANCE.

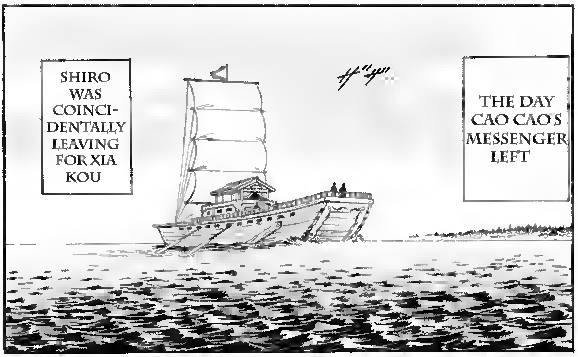
この本には，月刊少年マガジン1996年７月号から９月号にかけて掲載された作品を収録しました。

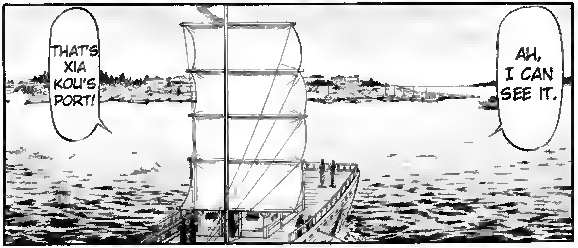
CHAPTER 36

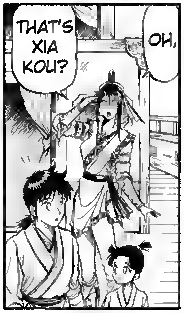
FIVE MILES OF FOG

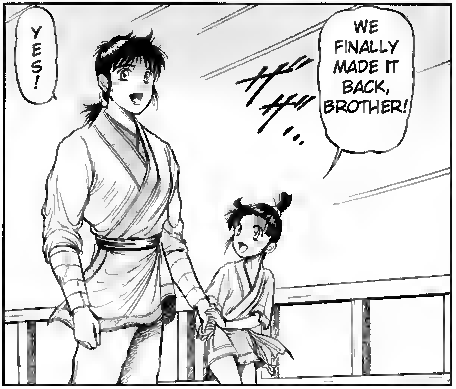
AT CHANG SHA'S FORT SOUTH BANK BA QIU GATE
THE STORY GOES BACK A BIT BEFORE WU DECIDES TO FIGHT
SOB!

IF HE HAD FOLLOWED ME TO BE A FISHERMAN, HE WOULDN'T HAVE DIED.
HE'S MY FOOLISH SON,
...
YOU'RE THIS SOLDIER'S RELATIVE?
GENERAL HUANG ZHONG, IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS NO ONE ALIVE IN THE VICINITY
...
I SEE
IF THIS IS CAO CAO'S WORK, THEN I MUST REPORT TO MASTER LIU BEI.
JUST WHAT HAPPENED HERE, OLD MAN?
WEREN'T YOU THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT CHANG SHA?
HUANG ZHONG
?


SHIRO WAS COINCI-DENTALLY LEAVING FOR XIA KOU
THE DAY CAO CAO'S MESSENGER LEFT


THAT'S XIA KOU'S PORT!
AH, I CAN SEE IT.


THAT'S XIA KOU?
OH,


YES!
WE FINALLY MADE IT BACK, BROTHER!

YES!
DOESN'T IT?
IT LOOKS PUNY...
WHEN COMPARED TO CHAI SANG,
I DON'T GET IT...
HMM ...
SHOCK
SHOULDN'T THEY HAVE PICKED LU SU INSTEAD?
WHY WOULD YOU BE THE CHOSEN MESSENGER FROM WU?

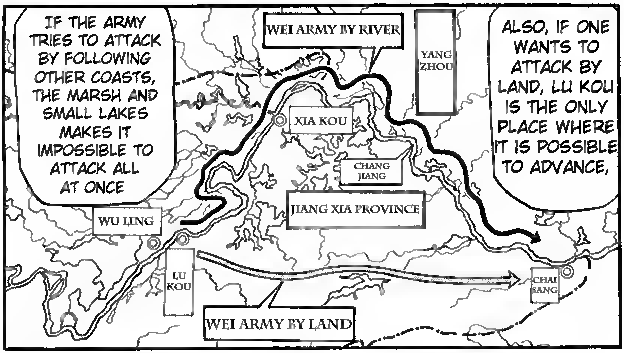
ギョッ
BUT, ISN'T THE SECONDARY ARMY LIU BEI'S ARMY?
LU SU HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE SECOND ARMY'S MILITARY ADVISOR... SO HE'S VERY BUSY...
WELL, SEE ...
OBVIOUSLY A BIG FAT LIE
I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT IT. THANKS FOR THE REMINDER.
THAT'S WHY HE WENT TO BUY SOME GIFTS TO THANK LORD LIU BEI... HE'LL GET HERE ANYTIME NOW!
AI LIN
...
MOVED
BEING AROUND THE PRINCESS...
I LIKE ...
SO THE STORIES FROM THE CITY THAT SHE TOLD ME ON THE ROAD CHEERED ME UP!
SINCE MISTER KONG MING AND SISTER LIAN HUA STAYED AT WU, I KIND OF FEEL LONELY..

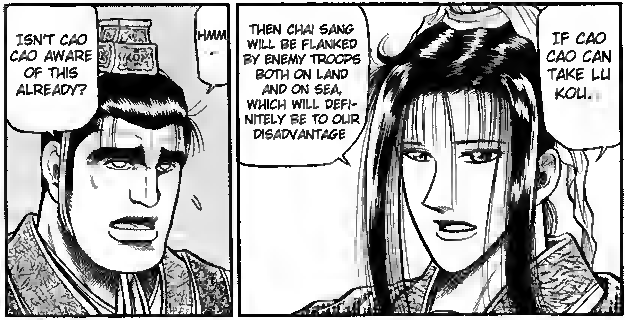
FINE BY ME
THAT'S
AWWWW I LOVE YOU TO DEATH, AI LIN!
IF ONE WAS TO THINK ABOUT KONG MING AND LIAN HUA STAYING BACK TO BE WU'S CONSULTANTS...
THEN I THINK THAT WITH THE PRINCESS STAYING OVER, WU SHOULDN'T DO ANYTHING FUNNY...
STILL,
SUN QUAN MUST BE GOING INSANE RIGHT ABOUT NOW...
WHAT IS THAT IDIOT THINKING?

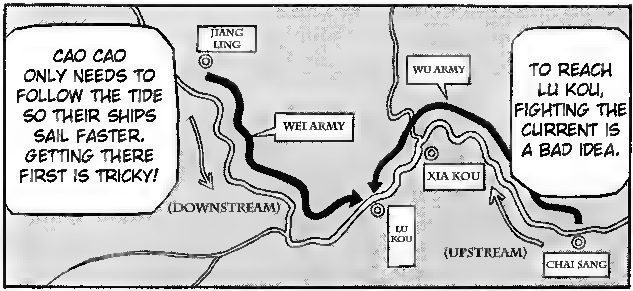
I WAS BEING TOO CARELESS
I DESERVE TO DIE!
AND SHE CHOOSES TO GO TO A PLACE LIKE LU KOU? A POTENTIAL BLOOD BATH?
THE BATTLE COULD START AT ANY TIME...
ENOUGH, LU SU, I'M GETTING A HEADACHE!
ドガッ!!
IT'S JUST THAT I DIDN'T EXPECT SHE'D KNOCK ME OUT AND ROB ME OF THE SCROLL. .
HAVE YOU FINISHED PREPARING FOR BATTLE?
BACK TO GENERAL ZHOU

WE MUST COORDINATE FROM LU KOU, THE RIVER THERE IS DANGEROUS TO TRAVEL...
HMM.....
WE STILL NEED TWO, PERHAPS 3 MORE DAYS BEFORE WE CAN MOVE OUT.
I'M AFRAID THAT...
YES!
WU WILL LOSE ALL ITS CHANCES OF VICTORY!
BUT IF IT WAS TO FALL TO CAO CAO INSTEAD...
WITH LU KOU IN OUR HANDS,
WE'D HAVE THE UPPER HAND...

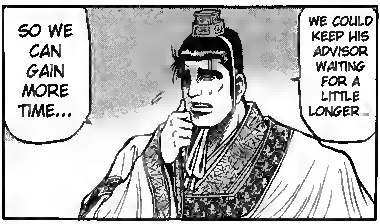
THAT LAND IS MOSTLY WET, AT CHANG JIANG, AND THE ARMY WILL DEFINITELY PASS THAT POINT,
LU KOU LINKS THE WATER ROUTE AND THE LAND ROUTE AT THE COAST.

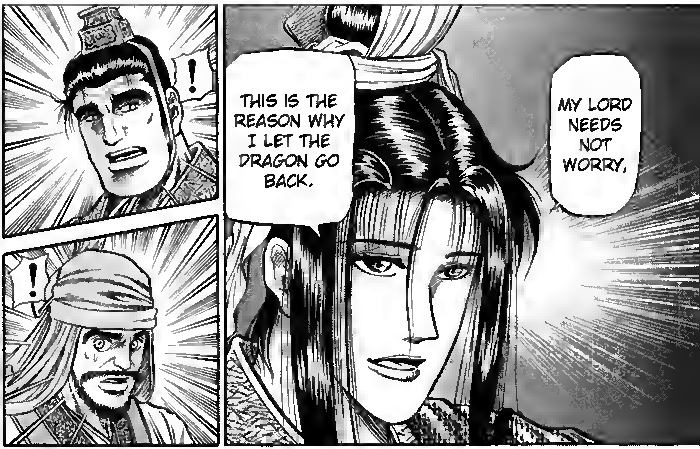

IF THE ARMY TRIES TO ATTACK BY FOLLOWING OTHER COASTS, THE MARSH AND SMALL LAKES MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTACK ALL AT ONCE
WEI ARMY BY RIVER
YANG ZHOU
XIA KOU
CHANG JIANG
JIANG XIA PROVINCE
WU LING
LU KOU
CHAI SANG
WEI ARMY BY LAND
ALSO, IF ONE WANTS TO ATTACK BY LAND, LU KOU IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE TO ADVANCE,

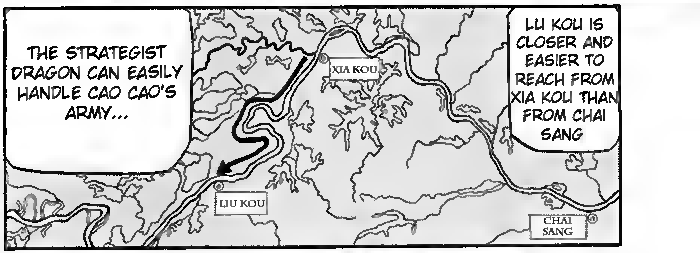

ISN'T CAO CAO AWARE OF THIS ALREADY?
HMM.
THEN CHAI SANG WILL BE FLANKED BY ENEMY TROOPS BOTH ON LAND AND ON SEA, WHICH WILL DEFINITELY BE TO OUR DISADVANTAGE
IF CAO CAO CAN TAKE LU KOU,

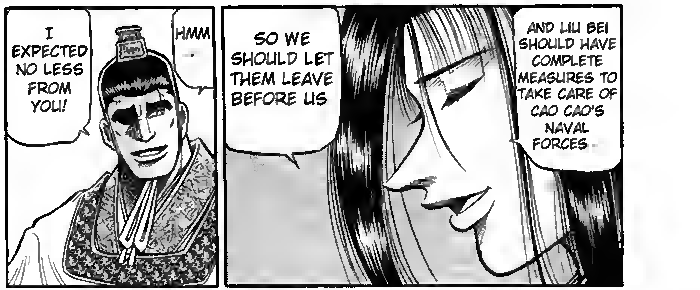

CAO CAO ONLY NEEDS TO FOLLOW THE TIDE SO THEIR SHIPS SAIL FASTER. GETTING THERE FIRST IS TRICKY!
JIANG LING
WEI ARMY
(DOWNSTREAM)
WU ARMY
XIA KOU
LU KOU
(UPSTREAM)
CHAI SANG
TO REACH LU KOU, FIGHTING THE CURRENT IS A BAD IDEA.

NOTE
SUN QUAN'S ARMY NEEDS TO TRAVEL AGAINST THE CURRENTS WHILE CAO CAO FOLLOWS IT DOWN WHICH MAKES THEM FASTER




!
!
THIS IS THE REASON WHY I LET THE DRAGON GO BACK.
MY LORD NEEDS NOT WORRY,


THE STRATEGIST DRAGON CAN EASILY HANDLE CAO CAO'S ARMY...
XIA KOU
LIU KOU IS CLOSER AND EASIER TO REACH FROM XIA KOU THAN FROM CHAI SANG
LIU KOU
CHAI SANG


I EXPECTED NO LESS FROM YOU!
HMM
SO WE SHOULD LET THEM LEAVE BEFORE US
AND LIU BEI SHOULD HAVE COMPLETE MEASURES TO TAKE CARE OF CAO CAO'S NAVAL FORCES

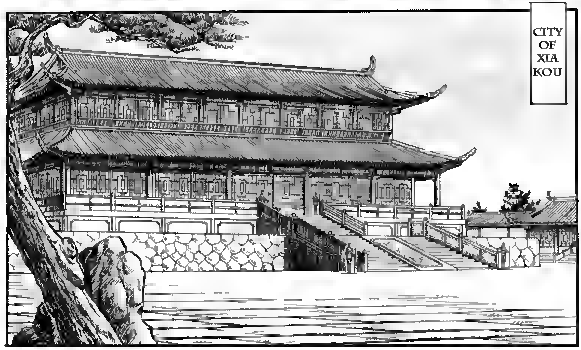
WITH YOU AND KONG MING,
I WILL BE ABLE TO STOP CAO CAO FROM GROWING IN STRENGTH EVEN MORE!
...
GENE RAL ZHOU ...
WHY DIDN'T YOU EXPLAIN PROP- ERLY TO OUR LORD?
SAY WHAT?
...
DID YOU REALLY THINK I FAILED TO NOTICE?

CONSIDERING LIU BEI'S CURRENT HEAD COUNT...
HE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEND LU KOU AGAINST CAO CAO!
I ESTIMATE LIU BEI'S ARMY TO BE ABOUT 10000 SOLDIERS AT MOST.
OF WHICH ONLY 5000 CAN BE SENT TO DEFEND.
HOW CAN HE DEFEND AGAINST CAO CAO'S WHICH COUNTS 200000 NAVAL SOLDIERS?
OR DO YOU PLAN TO USE LIU BEI AS A STEPPING STONE, NAVAL COMMANDER ZHOU?
...
...

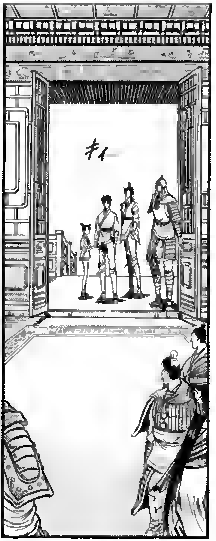
KONG MING ONCE SAID,
"THE DRAGON'S SON IS A PERSON WHO CAN BRING =WAR'S LUCK=",
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY DON'T WE TRY IT?
IF HE DOES BRING "WAR'S LUCK", WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS WITHOUT PROBLEMS...
!!
BESIDES, THIS WAR HAS ALREADY STARTED,
STEPPING STONE OR NOT, LU KOU CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO FALL INTO CAO CAO'S HANDS!

AM I TOO NAIVE, TO BE BEGGING FOR MORALITY IN BATTLES?
HE WON'T STOP FOR ANYTHING!
THIS MAN ...

THE ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU, WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR "WAR'S LUCK?"
DRAGON'S SON...


CITY OF XIA KOU

WE'RE BACK!
LORD LIU BEI...



FINALLY BACK!
SHIRO!

SHIRO!
OH!

YES, GENERAL ZHANG IS ALSO FULL OF SPIRIT!
OHO, LOOKING HEALTHY!

HE'S THE DRAGON'S SON, BUT WHY IS EVERYONG TREATING HIM LIKE FAMILY?
I'M SHOCKED
I'M NOT LIKE YOU AND I DON'T HAVE THE TIME FOR THIS
WHAT ABOUT THOSE WU GIRLS, EH? HAD ANY "FUN"?
WHAT DID YOU SAY? YOU BASTARD!
OUCH!
ABOUT THAT...
AH!
RIGHT, HOW DID THE ALLIANCE PROCEED?
THAT'S MY PART!
HOLD ON, DRAG-ON'S SON,
!
RAWR!
FRIGHT-ENED

PRINCESS REN IS HERE ON BEHALF OF WU AS MESSENGER!
HOLD YOUR HORSES!
STEALING SUCH A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN FROM WU IS QUITE A FEAT!
YOU CAN FEND FOR YOURSELF, PLINK!
HURTIN' ME TO BREATH!
I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE BEEN EATEN!
BA DUMP
BA DUMP
BA DUMP
BA DUMP
PRINCESS?
HUH?
I CAME TO YOUR GLORIOUS KINGDOM AS WU'S MESSENGER.
SORRY FOR BEING LATE IN INTRODUCING MYSELF I AM SUN QUAN'S SISTER AND MY NAME IS REN.
クス
ヒヒヒ
ヒヒヒ

ARE YOU LORD LIU BEI?
WELL, YOU DESERVED IT...
HURTS SO MUCH!
I AM TERRIBLY SORRY FOR WHAT JUST HAPPENED, BUT WE HAD NO IDEA.. PLEASE UNDERSTAND AND FORGIVE US!
ジン
ジン
ジン
ス
PLEASE ACCEPT IT!
THIS IS OUR AGREEMENT TO THE ALLIANCE,
...!!

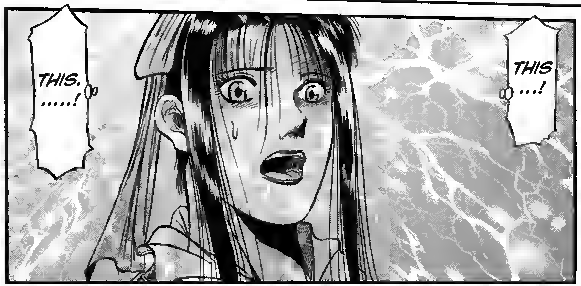
WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR LORDSHIP'S NOT GOING TO READ IT?
?

THAT... THAT IS...
AH?

HAVING GENERAL SUN SENDING HIS OWN SISTER AS A MESSENGER HAS SHOWN HIS DETERMINATION...
NO..... THERE'S NO NEED TO DO SO!

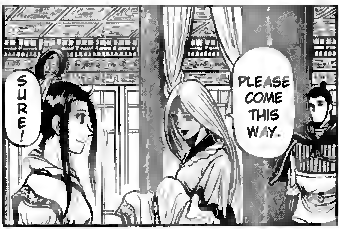
ス..

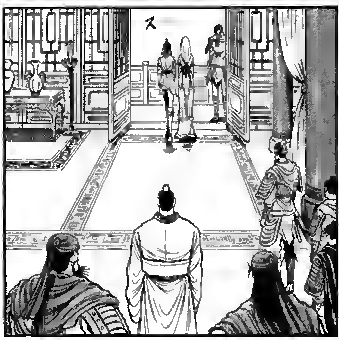
I, LIU BEI, AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR SUN QUAN'S AGREEMENT
PLEASE PRESENT TO HIM MY UTMOST THANKS!


THIS...!
THIS.....!

. . . .
BROTHER
SHIRO
..
!
THIS JOURNEY
HAS BEEN HARD ON YOU, HASN'T IT?
NOT AT ALL
LADY YUE YING, I'LL HAVE TO TROUBLE YOU TO LEAD PRINCESS TO HER ROOM.
YES
I BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCESS ALSO FEELS TIRED...
WE HAVE PREPARED OUR BEST ROOM. PLEASE REST WELL.

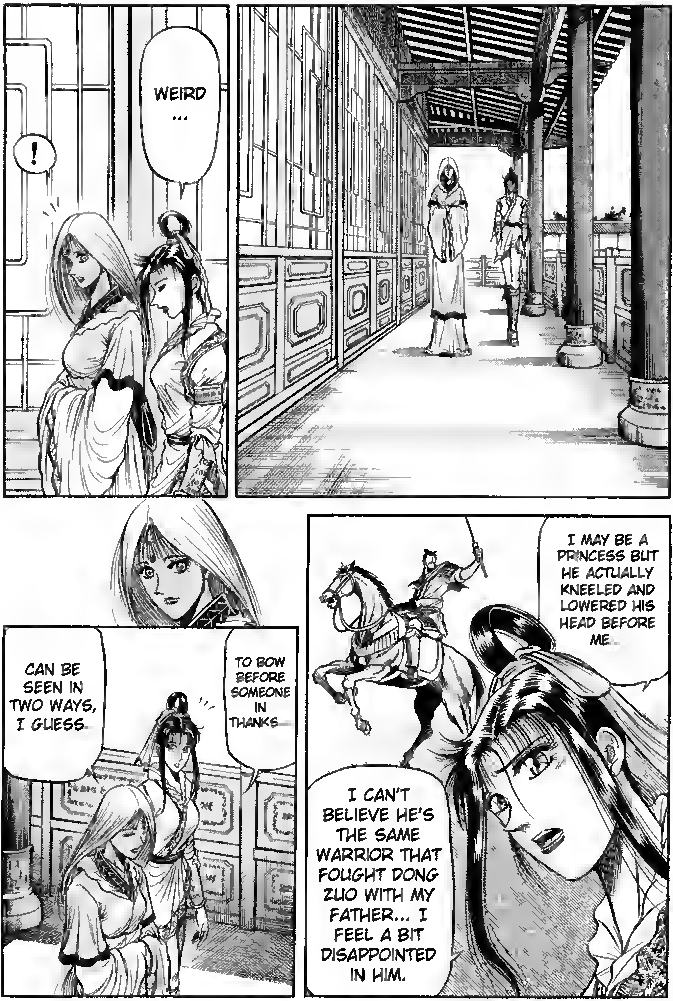
I DIDN'T EXPECT THE PRINCESS TO BE THE MESSENGER ——
YES..


PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
SURE!



YES

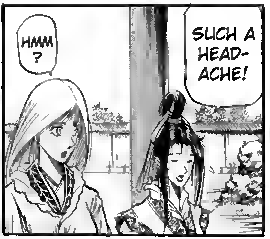
OH, SHIRO!
I DID NOT SEE KONG MING SINCE YOU GOT HERE, DID HE REMAIN IN WU?
IF HE DID, THERE MUST BE A VERY GOOD REASON BEHIND IT?

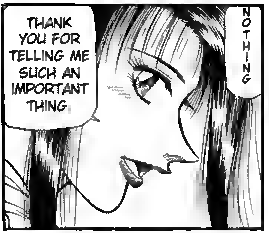

WEIRD ...
!
I MAY BE A PRINCESS BUT HE ACTUALLY KNEELED AND LOWERED HIS HEAD BEFORE ME...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S THE SAME WARRIOR THAT FOUGHT DONG ZUO WITH MY FATHER... I FEEL A BIT DISAPPOINTED IN HIM.
TO BOW BEFORE SOMEONE IN THANKS...
CAN BE SEEN IN TWO WAYS, I GUESS...

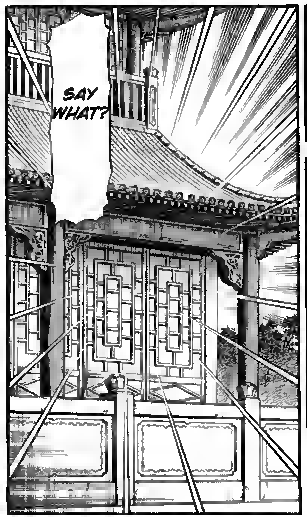
THE OTHER, IS HAVING HIS HEART ROOTED DEEP IN THE EARTH, BEING IMMOVABLE AND DETERMINED
ONE IS HIS HEART BEING FRAGILE AND UNCERTAIN.
NO SHAME WHAT SO EVER?
TO THE POINT OF KNEELING?
BESIDES, LORD LIU BEI CARRIES THE BURDEN OF MANY CIVILIANS
A HEART THAT DOESN'T SWAY NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, DOESN'T JUDGE WHETHER IT IS BENEATH OR ABOVE OTHERS
WU'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS BATTLE GIVES MANY CIVILIANS THE HOPE THAT CAO CAO CAN BE BEATEN
YES ...
COMPARED TO THE IMPORTANT TASK OF FULLFILLING THEIR HOPES, HOW CAN HE BOTHER ABOUT FACE?

!!
DO YOU STILL SEE LIU BEI AS A "WEAK" PERSON?
HE'S A DETERMINED MAN THAT CARES NOT ABOUT HAVING TO EXPRESS HIS GRATITUDE THROUGH ACTIONS.
...
EVEN WHILE LORD LIU BEI WAS BOWING BACK THERE...
I COULD STILL FEEL A STRANGE PRESSURE FROM HIS STATURE...
I GET IT NOW
THAT COULD ONLY COME FROM ONE THAT HAS A DETERMINED HEART.

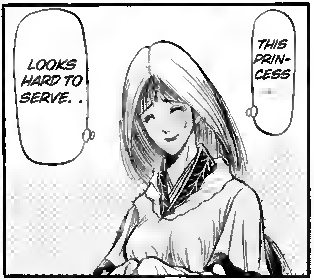
THE BIGGEST GAP BETWEEN THE DRAGON'S SON AND I IS MY LACK OF COMBAT EXPERIENCE!
THOSE THAT EXPERIENCED MANY BATTLES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE REST... I'LL STAY BY HIS SIDE AND SEE WHAT I CAN LEARN!


HMM ?
SUCH A HEAD-ACHE!


THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING.
NOTHING


SAY WHAT?

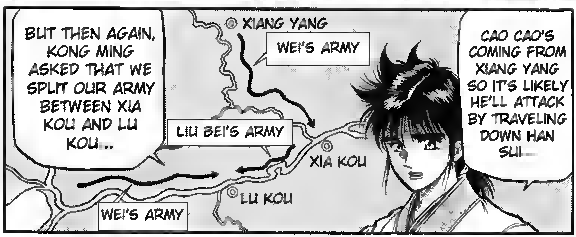
JUST YOU WAIT, DRAGON'S SON! I WILL NOT LET YOU ACT COCKY IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN!


LOOKS HARD TO SERVE. .
THIS PRINCESS

YES ...
OBVIOUSLY WANTS US TO DEFEND LU KOU ALONE!
THAT ZHOU YU GUY...
BUT THAT IS ONLY TEMPO-RARY... TILL WU'S ARMY REACHES LU KOU...
BASTARD! CAN HE BE TRUSTED?

...
ANY BRIGHT IDEAS ABOUT THE COMING BATTLE?
SHIRO ...
YEAH... BUT...
ZHANG FEI, THERE'S NO NEED TO TAKE IT OUT ON SHIRO!

NOT YET ...
WELL ...


BUT THEN AGAIN, KONG MING ASKED THAT WE SPLIT OUR ARMY BETWEEN XIA KOU AND LU KOU...
XIANG YANG
WEI'S ARMY
LIU BEI'S ARMY
XIA KOU
LU KOU
WEI'S ARMY
CAO CAO'S COMING FROM XIANG YANG SO IT'S LIKELY HE'LL ATTACK BY TRAVELING DOWN HAN SUI...

KONG MING ...
EVEN BOTH MY MILITARY ADVISORS WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT...
HMM... DIVIDING A SMALLER ARMY FORCE TO STAND AGAINST A BIG ARMY

YOU MUST BELIEVE IN YOUR "WAR'S LUCK"!
SHIRO ...
IT'S ABOUT ALL THINGS BEING "CONNECTED"!
YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ISN'T ABOUT RELYING ON GODS AND SPIRITS!
BUT HOW CAN THIS MONEY BE PICKED UP, WHEN THERE IS NO ONE WHO LOST IT THERE EARLIER?
FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN SOMEONE PICKS UP MONEY FROM THE GROUND, HE IS "LUCKY",
AND IT'S ONLY PEOPLES' ACTIONS THAT CAUSE THESE "CONNECTED EVENTS" TO HAPPEN!
THIS "LUCK" IS ALL ABOUT "CONNECTED" EVENTS, EACH ENABLING ANOTHER TO HAPPEN.

THATS WHY I BELIEVE YOU CAN GET THE MAXIMUM OUT OF THESE "CONNECTIONS". BELIEVE IN YOUR ABILITIES!
YOU HOLD THE "FACE OF DESTINY" ...
KONG MING .....
BUT ...
I REALLY HAVE NO IDEAS AT ALL.....

I FEAR I WON'T BE ABLE TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH LUCK I HAVE, I STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A NAVAL COMBAT, SO THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE SITUATION AT "CHANG BAN BRIDGE"[9].

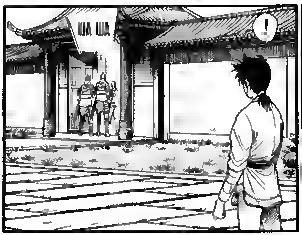
I AM ONLY SOMEONE WHO KNOWS A LITTLE OF THE HISTORY OF "THE THREE KINGDOMS ERA"!
EVEN USING THE "DRAGON'S STRATEGIST'S" FAME,

IN HISTORY, THIS BATTLE IS WON BY WU!
LOOKING AT IT THIS WAY, THERE IS NO WAY THAT LORD LIU BEI CAN LOSE!

WAIT, HISTORY...
.....

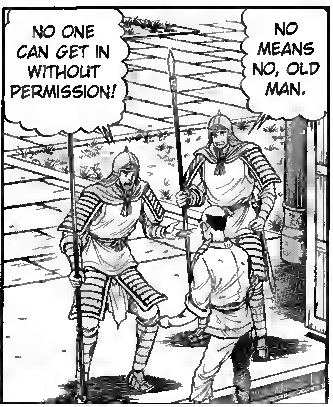
NO MATTER HOW THIS BATTLE TURNS OUT...
IT'S ALL HISTORY AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
I KNOW THAT PERFECTLY ...
SO WHAT AM I STILL CONFUSED ABOUT?
WHY AM I STILL ALIVE RIGHT NOW?
IT'S BECAUSE MENG LAN AND THE OTHER SOLDIERS SACRIFICED THEMSELVES TO SAVE MY LIFE!
HOW CAN I BE UNABLE TO THINK UP A GOOD PLAN,
AND RECKLESSLY THROW THEIR SACRIFICES AWAY?

I HAVE BECOME A PART OF HISTORY...
HOW COULD I RETREAT LIKE A COWARD NOW?


!

HEY, YOU'RE TOO NOISY!

QUICKLY GO AND REPORT, YOUNG MAN!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU ALREADY? I HAVE IMPORTANT THINGS TO TELL LORD LIU BEI!


NO ONE CAN GET IN WITHOUT PERMISSION!
NO MEANS NO, OLD MAN.

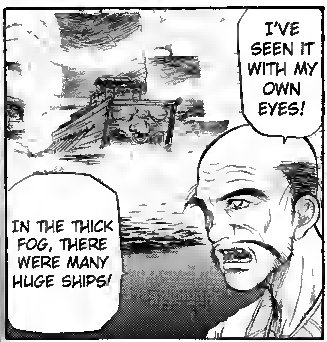
DRAGON ADVISOR!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

I DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO WASTE ON SMALL FRY!
I CAME ON BEHALF OF GENERAL HUANG ZHONG!
WAAAH!
ADVISOR? THAT SMALL RUNT IS THE ADVISOR?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
YOU BETTER BEHAVE, OLD MAN!
!
GENERAL HUANG ZHONG
HASN'T HE ALREADY GONE BACK TO CHANG SHA?
YES, THAT'S TRUE!
LORD LIU BEI NEEDS TO KNOW THAT CAO CAO'S ARMY HAS MOVED TO CHANG SHA!

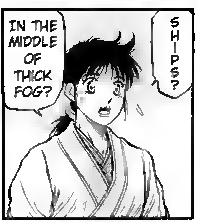
IS THIS TRUE, OLD MAN?
WOULD I TRAVEL ALL THE WAY FROM XIA KOU TO TELL A LIE AND GO BACK?

!
THEY MADE A MOVE ON CHANG SHA?

!!


I'VE SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES!
IN THE THICK FOG, THERE WERE MANY HUGE SHIPS!

FOG?


IN THE MIDDLE OF THICK FOG?
SHIPS?

BY USING THIS INFORMATION...
I THINK THAT I CAN FIND A WAY TO DEFEND LU KOU!
CAN YOU TELL ME OF WHAT HAPPENED IN DETAILS?
IF I COULD TROUBLE YOU, OLD MAN...
GAH!
HMM! YOU'RE DEFINITELY AN ADVISOR, DIFFERENT FROM THESE ILL MANNERED RUNTS!
AH!
ARE YOU SURE, SHIRO?
WHAT? THE TIGER FANG ARMY HAS BEEN TO CHANG SHA?
MY LORD!
YES.

AS THIS OLD MAN WAS FISHING ...
HE SAW A GREAT DEAL OF SHIPS.
IS THIS TRUE? THIS OLD SIR HUNG?
YES... YES.
THE SIGHT OF THEIR SHIPS WAS FRIGHTENING
MY HEART WAS STILL POUNDING VERY FAST WHEN I GOT HOME!
THE FOG WAS TOO THICK, SO HE COULDN'T SEE PROPERLY, BUT...
BUT HE STILL MANAGED TO SEE A BLACK ARMORS AND THE WORD "TIGER" ON THE FLAGS!
AND WHEN I LATER ARRIVED AT CHANG SHA'S FORT TO SEE MY SON WHO HAD BECOME A SOLDIER,
I SAW THAT THE ENTIRE PLACE WAS FILLED WITH DEAD PEOPLE, NOT A SINGLE SURVIVOR...

. . . .
HE WAS REDUCED TO JUST ONE OF THE MANY BODIES AMONG THE PILES OF CORPSES..
MY SON ...
KAH! MASS MURDER!
THAT'S DEFINITELY THE STYLE OF "THE TIGER FANG ARMY"!
BUT THE FACT THAT THE "TIGER FANG ARMY" USED THE FOG TO APPROACH THE FORT UNDETECTED AND THEN ATTACKED IT WITH FULL FORCE IS CERTAIN.
I DON'T GET IT EITHER ..
WHAT WAS THEIR PURPOSE?
BUT...

BUT THE FACT THAT THE "TIGER FANG ARMY" USED THE FOG TO APPROACH THE FORT UNDETECTED AND THEN ATTACKED IT WITH FULL FORCE IS CERTAIN.
YES.
SO THICK THAT A FLEET OF ENEMY SHIPS CAN REMAIN UNSEEN?
THE FOG?
IT BECOMES SO THICK THAT YOU CAN'T SEE THE SURROUNDING LAND ANYMORE.
ESPECIALLY AT DONG TING HU IT GETS THICKER, BECAUSE IT COMBINES WITH THE LAKE'S FOG THERE...
I HAVE A REQUEST.
LORD LIU BEI,
I SEE. SO THAT'S HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO ATTACK THE FORT!
HMM...
...

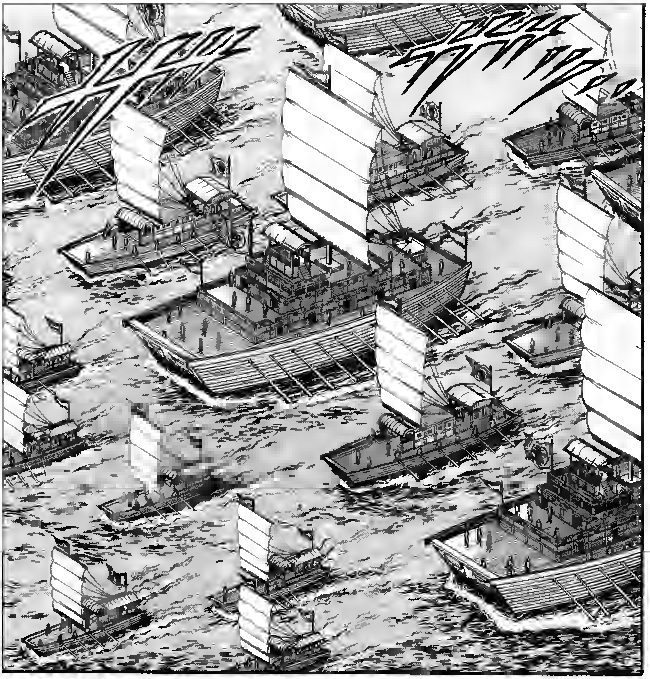
CAN I ASK YOU TO LEND ME FIVE HUNDRED SOLDIERS.
AND SHIPS THAT CAN HOLD FIVE HUNDRED MEN PLEASE?
!
DO YOU HAVE A PLAN?
YES.
I WOULD LIKE TO USE YOUR SOLDIERS.
AND STOP CAO CAO'S ARMY BEFORE IT REACHES LU KOU!

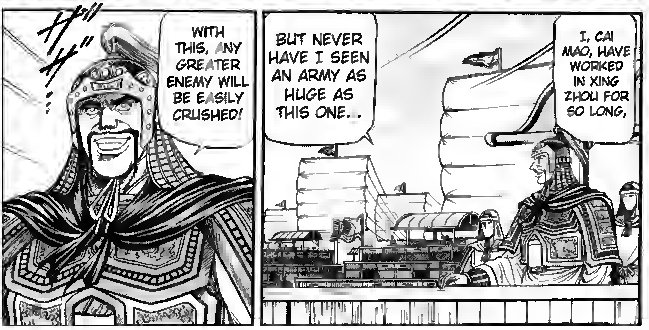
!!
500 SOLDIERS TO STOP 800000? YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND!
THAT'S A BAD JOKE!
DON'T BE FOOLISH!
DON'T
WHAT?
WE'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD THEM BACK UNTIL WU'S ARMY ARRIVES AT LU KOU...
RELAX IF ALL GOES SMOOTHLY
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, PRINCESS.
HEH...

IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME SEEING HIM IN ACTION SO YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.
BUT RIGHT NOW, SHIRO IS THE MOST DEPENDABLE ONE OF US ALL!
ZHANG FEI IS RIGHT!
GENE RAL GUAN YU?
LATER ON.
YOU'LL UNDER-STAND AS WELL...
WHY THIS YOUNG MAN...
IS CALLED "THE STRATEGIST DRAGON"!

STRATEGIST DRAGON?
THE...
ゴク.
I NEED YOUR HELP TO FIGHT AGAINST CAO CAO'S ARMY
WILL YOU HELP US?
OLD MAN HUNG
...
SURE THING! IF IT'LL GET REVENGE FOR MY SON.
THEN JUST TELL ME WHAT TO DO AND I'LL DO IT!
THANK YOU, YOU HAVE MY UTMOST GRATITUDE

GAVE ME A PLAN TO DEFEND LU KOU....
AND CHUNG TA ATTACKING CHANG SHA..
IF HE DIDN'T MEET GENERAL HUANG ZHONG FIRST..
THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE MET OLD MAN HUNG...
THOSE CRUCIAL "RELATIONS" ...!
MAYBE THIS IS THE THING KONG MING WAS TALKING ABOUT..
I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT!
I HOLD THE "FACE OF DESTINY" SO I'M NO LONGER AN OUTSIDER TO HISTORY!




I, CAI MAO, HAVE WORKED IN XING ZHOU FOR SO LONG,
BUT NEVER HAVE I SEEN AN ARMY AS HUGE AS THIS ONE...
WITH THIS, ANY GREATER ENEMY WILL BE EASILY CRUSHED!

THAT WILL NOT FALTER IN THE FACE OF WAR OR THE CHAOS WILL NEVER END!
OUR ERA IS IN NEED OF A RULER
JUST YOU WAIT... LIU BEI... SUN QUAN!
EVEN IGNORANT FARMERS WILL BE ATTACKED WITH NO MERCY!
CHAPTER 36 END

RYUURODEN

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- TRANSLATOR: SIGILZ
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- PROOFREADER: MKOR
- EDITOR: RAVENOUSREADER

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HEY EVERYONE,

TIME FOR A CHRISTMAS RELEASE OF RYUURODEN. WE'RE GOING OUT WITH THE WHOLE VOLUME 10 ALL AT ONCE. OTHER THAN THAT, WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR JAPANESE AND CHINESE TRANSLATORS. EDITORS TOO. SEND A MAIL TO JOIN@JANKENPON.DE AND TELL US ABOUT IT, MORE HELP IS VERY WELCOME! WELL, SEE YA ALL AROUND!

- APEMAN

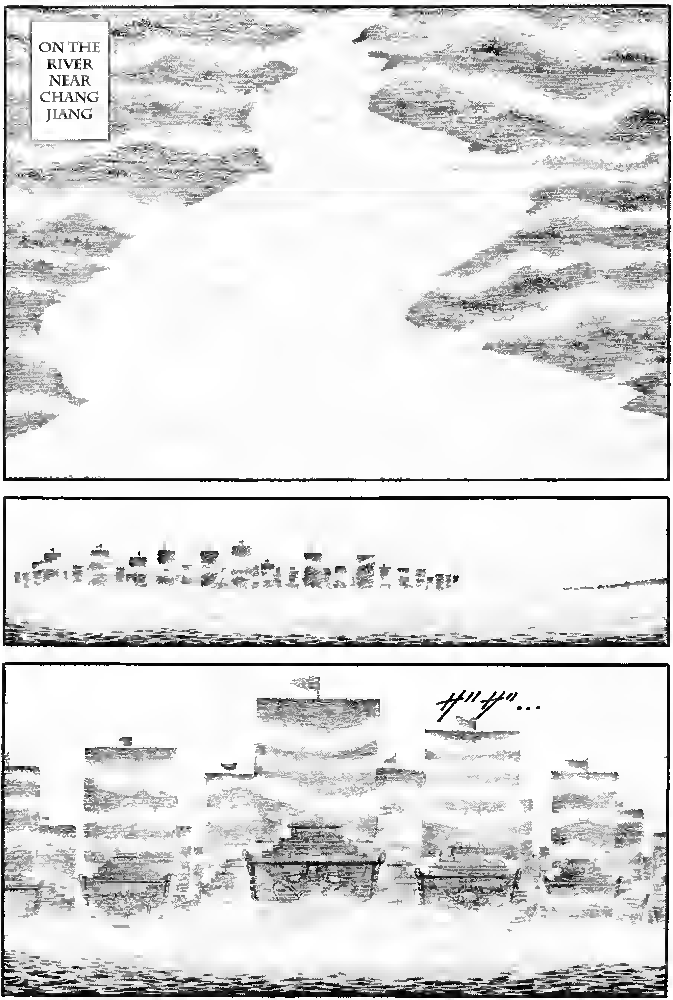
CHAPTER 37

REVEALING THE DIVERSIONAL STRATAGEM

CHAI SANG GO VERN MENT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO STAY HERE, LIAN HUA!
IT'S OKAY IF YOU GO WITH SHIRO

ONLY.
HIS SMILE IS SO EXAGGERATED, IT'S AS IF HE'S LAUGHING AT ME...
THEN I'M REALLY SO GRATEFUL!
THE REASON WHY I'M STAYING HERE IS TO TAKE CARE OF SIR'S SAFETY!
NO, NONSENSE, MISTER KONG MING.
HIS ARMY IS NOT EVEN CLOSE TO TEN THOUSAND, HOW CAN HE DEFEND AGAINST CAO CAO'S HUGE ARMY AT LU KOU?
I'M JUST UNSURE ABOUT WHETHER SHIRO WILL BE ALRIGHT...
I THINK YOU WOULDN'T HAVE STAYED HERE AND WOULD HAVE ALREADY GONE TO XIA KOU, RIGHT, LIAN HUA?
BUT, IF SHIRO REALLY WAS AN INCAPABLE MILITARY ADVISOR,

MISTER KONG MING
CANCELLING MY POSITION AS WU'S ADVISOR AND FOLLOW THEM TO XIA KOU
IF IT WASN'T FOR SHIRO, EVEN IF I HAD TO TALK UNTIL MY TONGUE HURT, I WOULD HAVE HAD TO POLITELY REFUSE SUN QUAN'S INVITATION,
AND I BELIEVE SHIRO WILL BE EAGERLY AWAITING US AT LU KOU.
WE'LL SET OFF EARLY TOMORROW, TOGETHER WITH WU'S ARMY,
SHIRO...
DON'T ATTEMPT WHAT YOU CANNOT ACHIEVE.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU MUST NOT DIE BEFORE I REACH THERE!


ON THE RIVER NEAR CHANG JIANG

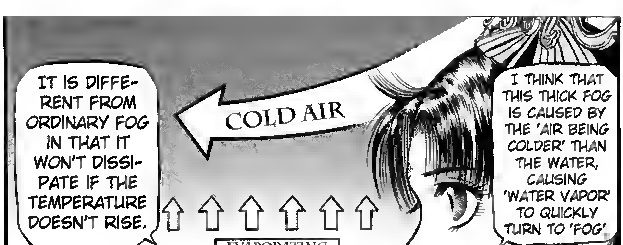
WE CAN'T SEE FAR ENOUGH SO THE SHIPS CAN'T GO AS FAST AS PLANNED!
THIS FOG IS SO AN-NOYING!

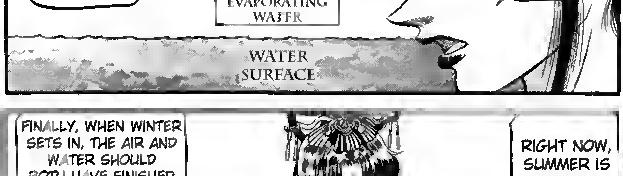
HM ...

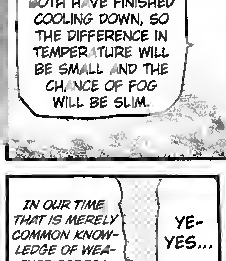
UNLESS THE AIR BECOMES WARMER, THE FOG WON'T DISAPPEAR FOR A LONG TIME...
I DON'T KNOW WHEN THE FOG WILL LIFT EITHER, BUT ...

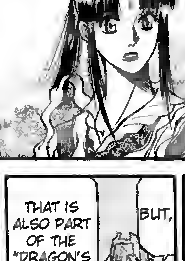
...

DRAGON GODDESS, WHEN DO YOU JUDGE THIS FOG WILL LIFT?
...


I THINK THAT THIS THICK FOG IS CAUSED BY THE 'AIR BEING COLDER' THAN THE WATER, CAUSING 'WATER VAPOR' TO QUICKLY TURN TO 'FOG'.
COLD AIR
IT IS DIFFERENT FROM ORDINARY FOG IN THAT IT WON'T DISSIPATE IF THE TEMPERATURE DOESN'T RISE.
EVAPORATING WATER
WATER SURFACE


FINALLY, WHEN WINTER SETS IN, THE AIR AND WATER SHOULD BOTH HAVE FINISHED COOLING DOWN, SO THE DIFFERENCE IN TEMPERATURE WILL BE SMALL AND THE CHANCE OF FOG WILL BE SLIM.
RIGHT NOW, SUMMER IS TURNING INTO WINTER SO THE DAYS ARE GROWING COLDER.

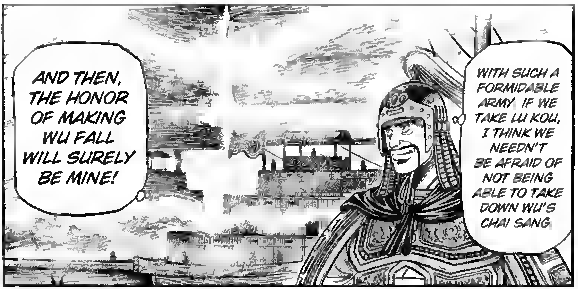

IN OUR TIME THAT IS MERELY COMMON KNOWLEDGE OF WEATHER FORECASTING!
YE-YES...

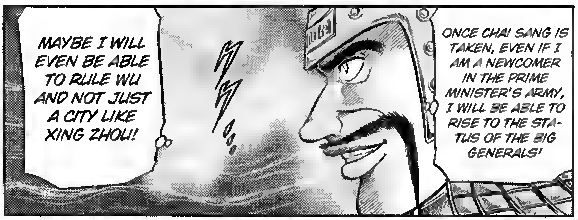

THAT IS ALSO PART OF THE "DRAGON'S WISDOM"?
BUT,

"EVAPORATION FOG"...
I FOUND CERTAIN THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND ...
IN THE GODDESS WORDS,

SO WE MUST TAKE IT BEFORE WU'S ARMY DOES!
ACCORDING TO CAI MAO, TAKING LU KOU IS THE CRUX OF WINNING THIS BATTLE,
NO MATTER HOW THICK THIS FOG IS, I CAN'T LET THE SHIPS STOP MOVING FOWARD.
BUT,
EVEN THOUGH MY HEART FEELS REGRET
I CAN ONLY LEAVE EVERYTHING TO XING ZHOU'S GENERAL CAI MAO
AH ...
FINALLY I CAN SEE LIGHT AFTER DARKNESS, LUCK APPROACHES

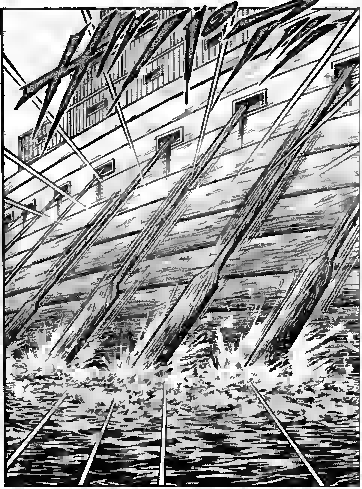
NOTE CAI MAO IS RATED AS AN EXCELLENT ADMIRAL BY ZHOU YU HIMSELF


AND THEN, THE HONOR OF MAKING WU FALL WILL SURELY BE MINE!
WITH SUCH A FORMIDABLE ARMY, IF WE TAKE LU KOU, I THINK WE NEEDN'T BE AFRAID OF NOT BEING ABLE TO TAKE DOWN WU'S CHAI SANG.


MAYBE I WILL EVEN BE ABLE TO RULE WU AND NOT JUST A CITY LIKE XING ZHOU!
ONCE CHAI SANG IS TAKEN, EVEN IF I AM A NEWCOMER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S ARMY, I WILL BE ABLE TO RISE TO THE STATUS OF THE BIG GENERALS!

HUH?

WHY DID THE SHIP STOP?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
!



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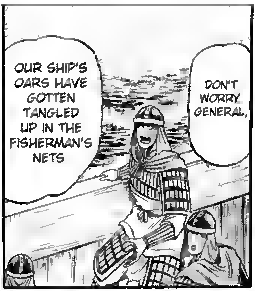
DON'T WORRY, GENERAL.
OUR SHIP'S OARS HAVE GOTTEN TANGLED UP IN THE FISHERMAN'S NETS

WHAT? ENTANGLED IN NETS?

AH, ADMIRAL!
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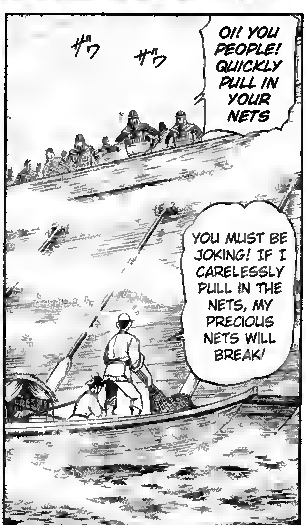
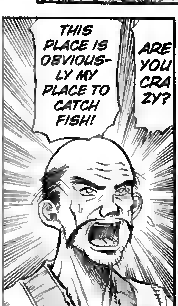
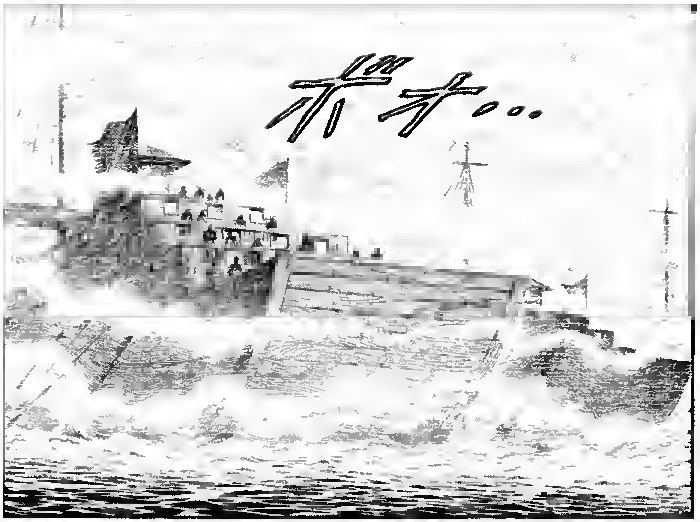

OI! YOU PEOPLE! QUICKLY PULL IN YOUR NETS
YOU MUST BE JOKING! IF I CARELESSLY PULL IN THE NETS, MY PRECIOUS NETS WILL BREAK!


THIS PLACE IS OBVIOUSLY MY PLACE TO CATCH FISH!
ARE YOU CRAZY?

WHO TOLD YOU TO CATCH FISH HERE?
YOU BUNCH OF BASTARDS!

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, JING MING?
YES ...
THAT EVEN IF I WANTED TO TURN MY BOAT TO EVADE YOU, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO!
ALSO, THE FOG IS SO THICK AND YOUR HUGE SHIPS SUDDENLY CAME IN SUCH LARGE NUMBERS,
ENOUGH, ENOUGH, YOU STUBBORN OLD FOOL,
QUICKLY MOVE OUT OF MY WAY! IF OUR LEADING SHIPS STOP, IT MEANS THE WHOLE ARMY HALTS!
THERE APPEAR TO BE SHIPS!
DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF US
SIR, ADMIRAL CAI!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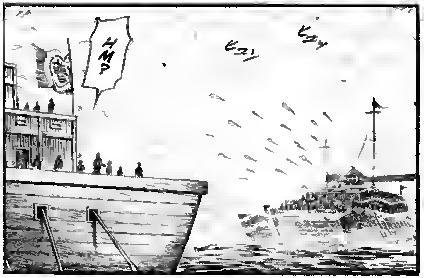
HM?
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HM. IT LOOKS LIKE A MILITARY SHIP, BUT WHOSE ARMY?
THE ONES THAT WENT TO CHANG SHA, THE "TIGER FANG ARMY"'S SHIPS? THE FOG IS SO THICK THAT EVEN THE FLAGS CAN'T BE SEEN CLEARLY!

THERE IS SOMETHING FLYING OVER HERE!
WHAT'S THAT?

THEY... THEY'RE FIRE ARROWS!
WHA?
HUH?
HM?
QUICKLY EXTINGUISH THE FIRES!
SHIT!
AH!
WAH!
THEY DARE SHOOT AT US! COULD THEY BE... WU'S SHIPS?
DAMN!
DANGER!
FATHER!

AH! JING MING!
SYAA!
OUR SHIP IS ON FIRE!
AH!
THE ENEMY SHIPS ARE QUICKLY RETREATING!
WHAT IS GOING ON?
AH!
WHAT ARE THE ARCHERS DOING? QUICKLY COUNTER THEIR FIRE!
HUH?
HUH?

OI! WAIT, WAIT!
!
IF WE LET THEM ATTACK US AND DON'T COUNTER THEIR ATTACK, WE'LL BE THE LAUGHINGSTOCK OF THE OTHER GENERALS!
PURSUE THEM! QUICKLY! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
WHAT?
IF WE STAY HERE ANY LONGER, BOTH OF US WILL BURN ALIVE WITH THE SHIP! PLEASE, SAVE US!
MY GRANDDAUGHTER HAS BEEN INJURED AND IS UNABLE TO MOVE,
THE FOG IS SO THICK THAT IF YOU WANT TO CHASE AFTER THEM, IT WILL BE VERY HARD, BUT WE HAVE A WAY TO LEAD YOU THROUGH THE FOG TO GO AFTER THEM!
RIGHT! DIDN'T YOU WANT TO CHASE AFTER THOSE SHIPS?
WHY CAN'T YOU JUMP INTO THE RIVER AND ESCAPE?
DON'T BE FOOLISH! WHO CARES ABOUT YOU?
AH!
THIS CAN'T BE...

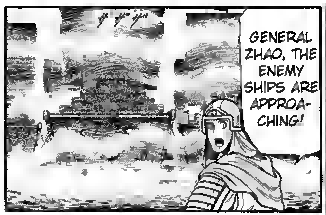
IN THIS FOG, HAVING A NATIVE TO LEAD US SHOULD BE SAFER..
HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT IS A REASONABLE PROPOSITION.
!
ALRIGHT THEN!
WE'LL GET YOU UP HERE, JUST WAIT A LITTLE
THANK YOU!
I'M REALLY THANKFUL FOR YOUR GRACIOUSNESS!
オラ
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ

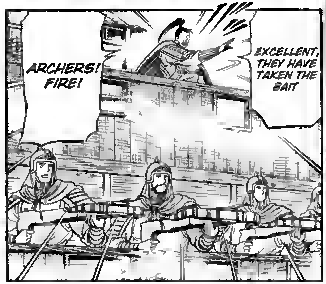
EVEN THOUGH HE IS A STRATEGIST, HE STILL GOES INTO THE ENEMY CAMP ALONE
BUT STILL...
NOW, LET'S HOPE SHIRO CAN SAFELY GET ONTO THE ENEMY SHIP. .
ALRIGHT, WE'VE DONE OUR PART...
COMPASSIONATE PRINCESS, YOU CAN'T DENY THAT HE S TRYING TO DEFEND LIU KOU WITH THIS EXCELLENT STRATEGY. USING ONLY AN ARMY OF FIVE HUNDRED MEN TO FIGHT AGAINST CAO CAO'S HUGE ARMY. RIGHT?
THAT IS CORRECT, BUT...
BECAUSE THIS IS A STRATEGY WITH A MINIMAL RISK, I AM ABLE TO ACCOMPANY THE ARMY.
I KNOW AND I DIDN'T FORGET.
WE SHOULDN'T EVEN LOSE A SINGLE SOLDIER!
BESIDES,

IT APPEARS THAT YOU ARE QUITE INTERESTED IN THE DRAGON'S STRATEGIST!
PRINCESS REALLY IS TOO CURIOUS.
IS TO WITNESS THE DRAGON'S SON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH MY OWN EYES!
BUT THE THING I'D REALLY WANT, THOUGH,
CURIOUS...
INDEED, WOULDN'T THE OLD MEO BE HERE ONLY FOR FUN?...
WILL CAI MAO REALLY FALL FOR THIS TRICK?
BUT, GENERAL ZHAO,
!
DRAGON'S STRATEGIST
DOESN'T ONLY RELY ON THE STRATEGY OF INFILTRATION, HE ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT WHAT HIS ENEMY MIGHT DO.

THE DRAGON'S STRATEGIST SAID THAT THIS IS HIS 'WEAKNESS'.
CAO CAO'S ADMIRAL CAI MAO IS CONSIDERED NEW AND SHOULD BE VERY ANXIOUS TO GAIN CAO CAO'S RECOGNITION.

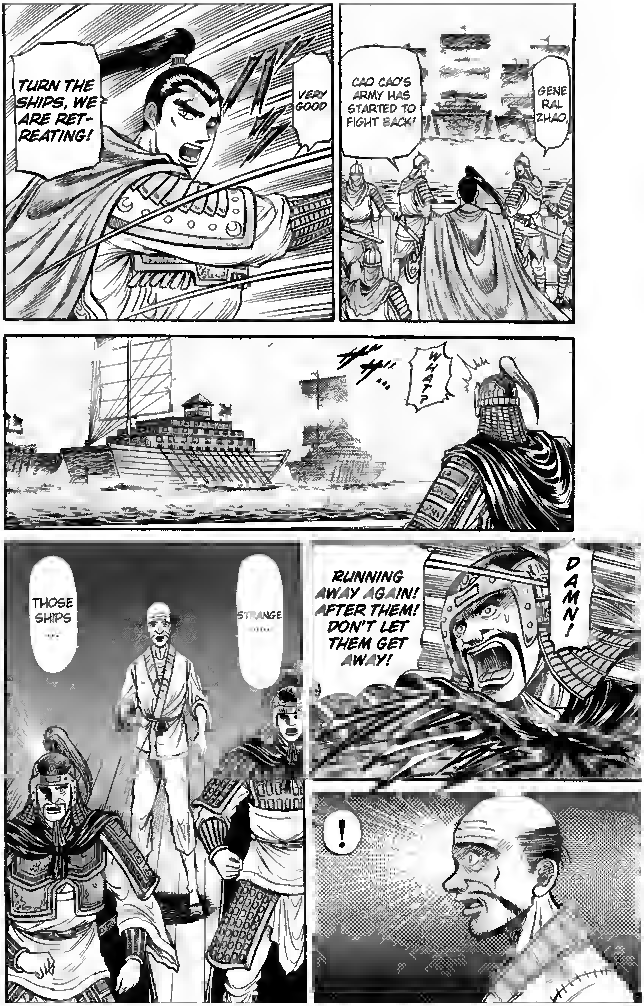
WON'T CIRCUMSTANCES BE BEST FOR USING A DIVERSIONAL STRATEGEM, THEN?
IF ONE IS SO BENT ON GETTING RECOGNITION HE WILL NATURALLY BE UNABLE TO CALMLY THINK THINGS THROUGH


GENERAL ZHAO, THE ENEMY SHIPS ARE APPROACHING!


ARCHERS! FIRE!
EXCELLENT, THEY HAVE TAKEN THE BAIT

WE NEEDN'T WORRY!
TRUST IN THE DRAGON'S ADVISOR WHO IS SURE TO OUTSMART CAO CAO'S ARMY!

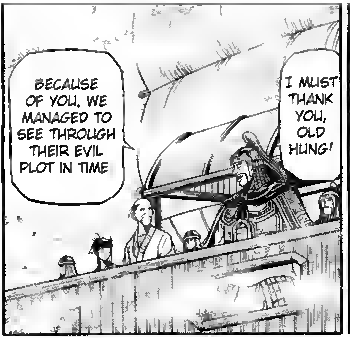
THEY'RE FIRING AT US AGAIN!
GAH!
ARCHERS! RETALIATE!
THOSE ANNOYING BASTARDS!
DAMN THEM!
SO GIVE THEM A TASTE OF OUR POWER!
COMPARING NUMBERS, WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE!

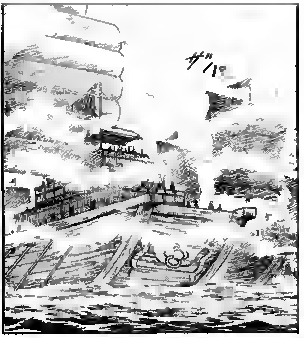

TURN THE SHIPS, WE ARE RETREATING!
VERY GOOD
CAO CAO'S ARMY HAS STARTED TO FIGHT BACK!
GENERAL ZHAO,
WHAT?
THOSE SHIPS ...
STRANGE ...
RUNNING AWAY AGAIN! AFTER THEM! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
DAMN!
!

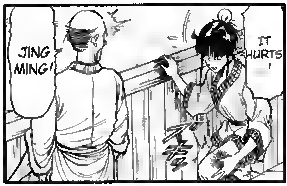
JIANGLING
CAO CAO'S NAVAL ARMY
CHANGJIANG
WU'S MOVEMENT
LISHUI
YUANSHUI
BUT EVEN THOUGH THOSE SHIPS ARE OBVIOUSLY WU'S, THEY ARE MOVING AWAY FROM WU. ISN'T THAT VERY STRANGE?
YES. IF WE CONTINUE MOVING, WE'LL ARRIVE AT LISHUI.
IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG? OLD HUANG?
NOTE: CAO'S TARGET IS TO GET INSIDE CHANGJIANG, BUT WE'RE HEADING THE WAY
HUH?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
PA CHA
PA CHA
CHECK THE WATER'S DIRECTION!
STOP THE SHIP!
REPORTING TO ADMIRAL
THE WATER IS INDEED FLOWING FROM THE FRONT TO THE BACK OF THE SHIP!

THEY ARE ACTUALLY TRYING TO USE THIS FOG TO MAKE US LOSE OUR DIRECTION, HOW DEVIOUS!
NO WONDER THEY ARE ATTACKING AND THEN QUICKLY RETREATING...
IT REALLY IS TRUE
THEY MUST BE USING THIS TRICK TO GAIN MORE TIME, SO THEY CAN FINISH PREPARING LU KOU'S DEFENSE!
IF A LARGE NUMBER OF SHIPS WERE TO LOSE THEIR DIRECTION IN A FOG THAT MAKES COMMUNICATION IMPOSSIBLE, LIKE THIS ONE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CORRECT.
?
UNFORTUNATELY, HEAVEN SEEMS TO BE ON OUR SIDE,
I DARE SAY THEY NEVER EXPECTED THAT US SAVING A FISHERMAN WOULD SPOIL THEIR DEVIOUS PLAN!

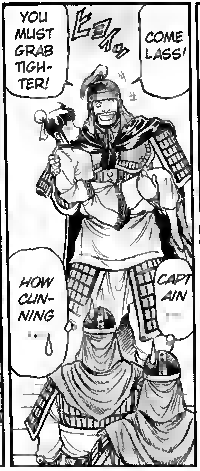
IGNORE THE ENEMY SHIPS!
CHANGE THE SHIPS DIRECTION,
!
GENERAL ZHAO,
CAO CAO'S ARMY HAS STARTED TO CHANGE DIRECTION.
HM, SEEMS THAT THEY NOTICED WE WERE TRYING TO LURE THEM TO LISHUI.
HOWEVER, WITH CAI MAO'S INTELLIGENCE, HE WILL NEVER EXPECT THAT THIS DIVERSION WAS MERELY A BEGINNING!


I MUST THANK YOU, OLD HUNG!
BECAUSE OF YOU, WE MANAGED TO SEE THROUGH THEIR EVIL PLOT IN TIME

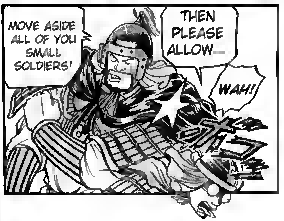



JING MING!
IT HURTS!

I ONLY HOPE THAT YOU WILL SHOW MERCY AND SAVE MY GRAND-DAUGHTER..
NO PRO-BLEM


COME LASS!
YOU MUST GRAB TIGH-TER!
CAPT AIN
HOW CUN-NING...

HEY! SOMEONE, HELP BAN-DAGING HER!
AH, THAT'S RIGHT! SHE GOT HURT BY AN ARROW EARLIER!


MOVE ASIDE ALL OF YOU SMALL SOLDIERS!
THEN PLEASE ALLOW...
WAH!!

YES, I KNOW.
YOU ONLY NEED TO LEAD THE WAY.
DON'T WORRY AND LEAVE YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER TO US!
!
HOW ABOUT IT? FOLLOW ME AND I'LL GUARANTEE A LIFE BETTER THAN WHAT YOU'RE HAVING NOW!
I MUST SAY, YOU'RE PRETTY BRAVE FOR A FISHERMAN'S GRAND-DAUGHTER!
COME, SIT HERE,
I'LL HELP YOU APPLY THE MEDICINE NOW.

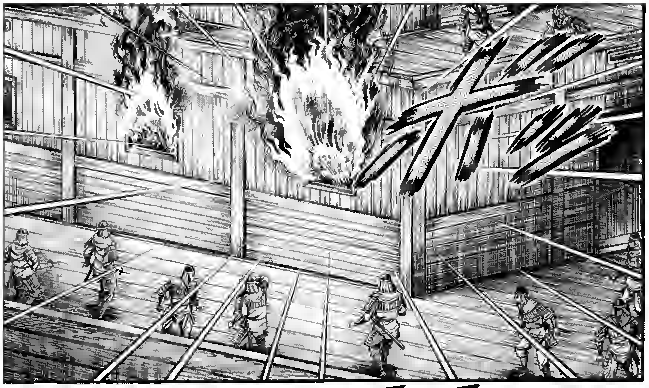
AH!
IT REALLY IS TRUE!
Z...
DISGUISING AS A FEMALE WILL USUALLY MAKE OTHERS LOWER THEIR GUARD
...
THE REST...
I'LL LEAVE TO YOU, MISTER HUNG!
THE CAPTAIN'S GUARDING THE DOOR
HOW DESPICABLE! HE PLANS ON HAVING THE GIRL ALL FOR HIMSELF!
SOMEONE COME AND SAVE ME-
MY BODY WON'T MOVE

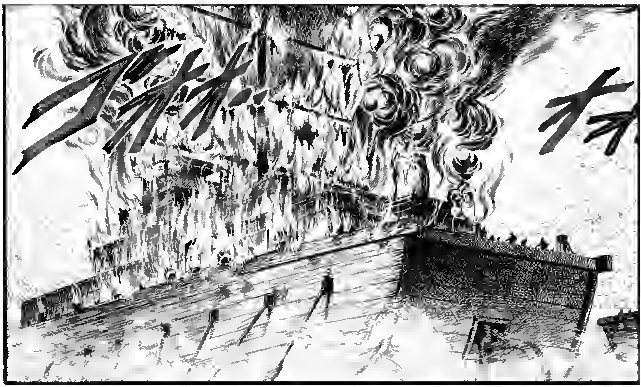
WHAT?
WU'S ARMY USED SUCH A TACTIC?
YES!
THEN THAT IS ODD...
...
IF WU'S SHIPS ARE IN THIS REGION,
THEN THEY SHOULD ALREADY BE IN LU KOU PREPARING THEIR FORMATION.. THEN WHY WOULD THEY EVEN NEED TO USE A DIVERSION?
AH!

HOW LONG AGO DID THAT DIVERSION TAKE PLACE?
HALF A DAY
WELL
BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY FOG, IT TOOK A WHILE FOR THE MESSAGE TO REACH US. I THINK IT HAS BEEN ABOUT HALF A DAY.
IT SEEMS THAT CAI MAO IS TOO ANXIOUS TO GAIN RECOGNITION!
I DEDUCE THAT IF IT ISN'T KONG MING, IT MUST BE THE DRAGON'S SON.
THIS TRAP MUST BE LIU BEI'S PEOPLE'S DOING.
EVEN THOUGH IT IS ALREADY LATE, MY ORDER IS TO TELL CAI MAO TO STOP MOVING THE SHIPS FORWARD!
REGARDLESS OF WHOSE TACTIC IT WAS, THOUGH, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR CAI MAO TO SEE THROUGH THE PLAN WITH HIS INTELLIGENCE!

AH RIGHT?
WHY ISN'T THIS FOG DISAPPEARING?
IT HAS GROWN MUCH THICKER THAN EARLIER, RIGHT?
NOT ONLY HASN'T IT DISAPPEARED IT'S AS IF
HUH?
IT'S BECAUSE THE RIVER'S FOG IS STILL DRIFTING HERE!
CREAK
CORRECT! GUESS!
!
AH!
GAH!

LOOKS LIKE THAT CAPTAIN DIDN'T LIE TO ME!
OF COURSE WHEN ONE IS THREATENED WHILE BEING UNABLE TO MOVE ANYONE WOULD SURRENDER.
THESE SEEM TO BE THE OIL BARRELS
F.
ON THE SURFACE, THE DIVERSION WAS TO LURE THEM TO LI SHUI, WHEREAS THE REAL PLAN WAS TO GET THEM TO DONG TING HU! SEEMS LIKE CAI MAO NEVER REALIZED THIS...
JUDGING FROM THE AIR, CAO CAO'S NAVIGATOR SHOULD HAVE MOVED FROM CHANG JIANG TO DONG TING HU.
PLEASE GATHER YOUR MEN AND RETREAT TO YOUR CAMPS!
AND FOR THIS, I APOLOGIZE!


THE CABIN'S ON FIRE!
HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'LL GO AND GET OTHER SOLDIERS, JUST WAIT RIGHT
ALRIGHT, I GOT IT.
HE INHALED TOO MUCH SMOKE AND HAS PASSED OUT!
HEY! SOMEONE HELP ME!
EVERYBODY, QUICKLY PUT OUT THE FIRE!
OH NO!


GOOO

BUT-BUT, THE FIRE IS SPREADING TOO QUICKLY!
HEY! WHY ARE YOU NOT TRYING TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRE?

WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY IS MY SHIP ON FIRE?

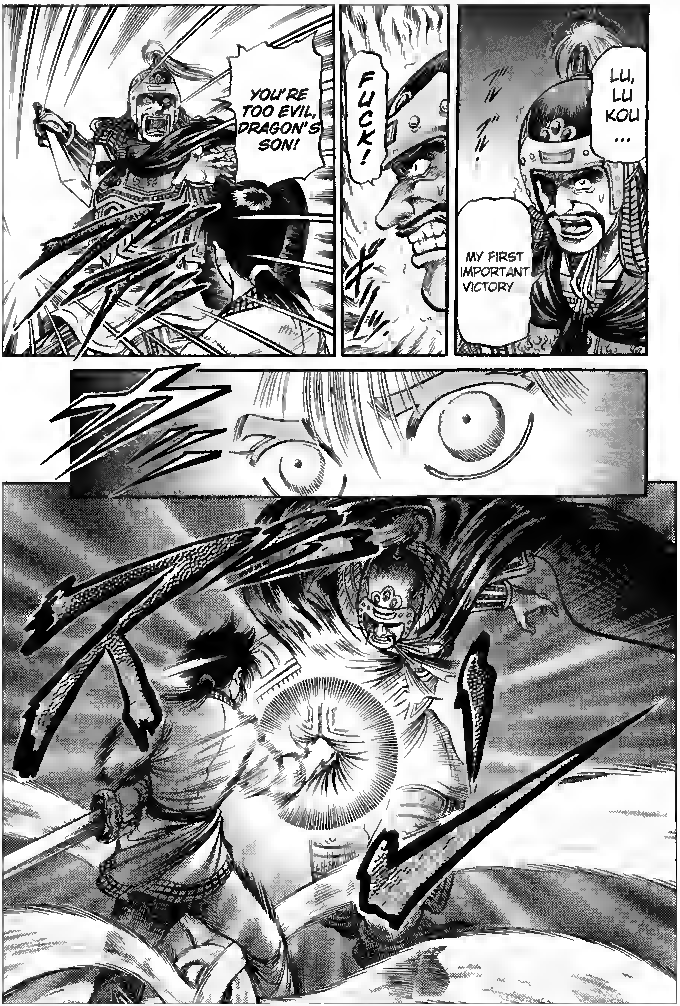
GAH!
WAH!

IF WE DON'T GET OFF QUICKLY, WE'LL BE BURNED ALONG WITH THE SHIP!
IT, IT'S USE-LESS!
DON'T RUN AWAY! HELP TO PUT OUT THE FIRE! QUICKLY!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
JUMP!
QUICKLY!
WHERE DID YOU GO?
OLD HUNG?
OI! OLD HUNG! COME AND HELP PUT OUT THIS FIRE AS WELL!
YOU BUNCH OF USE-LESS MEAT-BAGS!

!
PFEW
I'M HERE! MISTER HUNG!
WHERE ARE YOU?
HEY! GREAT ADVI-SOR!
IT'S TIME FOR US TO ESCAPE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
I... CA MO . E...!
NN NG .
WHY ISN'T HE ESCA-PING?
WHAT'S THE CAPTAIN DOING?
THERE WAS A COMIC SITUATION THAT DELAYED ME!
I'M SORRY !
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OLD HUNG !
!
AH!

HUH?
YOU'RE... DRAGON'S SON!
AH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THIS, THIS IS...
THE REASON I PRETENDED TO GET SHOT WAS TO GET ONTO THIS SHIP!
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT CAN'T BE...
THAT GIRL WAS .....!

DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D TEACH SOMEONE WHO KILLED MY SON THE CORRECT ROUTE?
CORRECT! I'LL TELL YOU THIS, THIS ISN'T CHANG JIANG ANYMORE!
!
!
TO GET ONTO MY SHIP?
Y.. YOU AND DRAGON'S SON PAIRED UP, TO GET ONTO MY SHIP?
IT CAN'T BE THAT OLD HUNG...
!!
I APOLOGIZE, BUT LU KOU WILL BE TAKEN BY WU'S LEADING NAVIGATOR, NOT YOU GENERAL CAI MAO!
WITH CAO CAO'S ARMY LACKING DIRECTION, TRYING TO GET BACK TO CHANG JIANG IN THIS FOG WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT.


LU, LU KOU ...
MY FIRST IMPORTANT VICTORY
FUCK!
YOU'RE TOO EVIL, DRAGON'S SON!

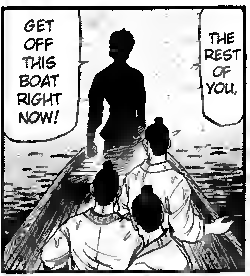
THE REASON WHY I HAD TO SEE XIN ZHOU'S CITIZENS GET SLAUGHTERED BUT COULD DO NOTHING ABOUT IT,
MASUM'S CAPTURE,
IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!
BLEAH!!
CAI MAO!
DO NOT FORGET!
I'M TELLING YOU THIS, CAI MAO!!
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM WITH SUCH A FEARFUL EXPRESSION...
LET'S GO! MISTER HUNG!
AH! OK!
WHAT'S WRONG, COMMANDER?
COMMANDER!
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING! BLASTED DRAGON'S ADVISOR ...!
AS LONG AS HE IS ALIVE, THERE IS NO FUTURE FOR ME!

HERE, QUICKLY GRAB MY HAND!
ARE YOU ALL-RIGHT?
!
WAH!
GU!
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ARGH!
WAH?

THOSE WHO DON'T WANT TO DIE GET OFF IMMEDIATELY
I'M NOT GOING TO REPEAT MYSELF,

IN-INCRED IBLE!
ザワ…
ｵｲ!

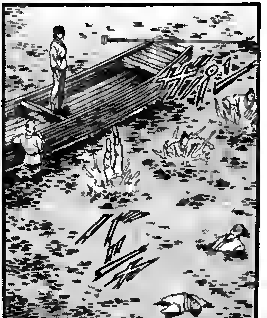

GET OFF THIS BOAT RIGHT NOW!
THE REST OF YOU,

ﾊｱﾊｱ
HOW INCRE DIBLE!

AND YOU TERRIFIED ALL THE SOLDIERS INTO HASTILY ESCAPING FOR THEIR LIVES.
YOU ONLY LOOKED THEM IN THE EYE,

ﾌﾌ

UN-UNDER STOOD!
AH!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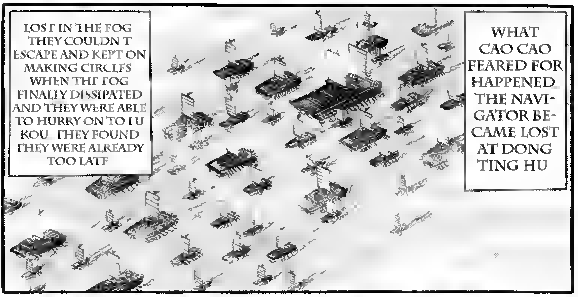
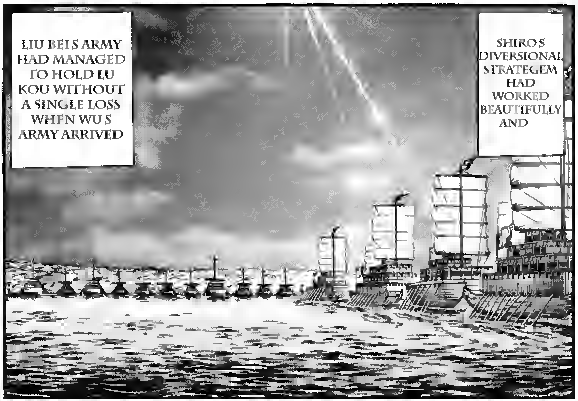
I JUST COULDN'T CONTROL MY ANGER AND KILLING INTENT TOWARDS CAI MAO ANYMORE.
TO THINK THAT I, WHO AM THE DRAGON'S STRATEGIST, WAS LED BY MY EMOTIONS AGAIN... THIS JUST CANNOT DO AT ALL! I AM TOO EASILY ANGERED!
...
NO, IN TRUTH .....
I AM NOT GREAT AT ALL!
EVEN WITH THE BURNING OF THE SHIP, YOU GAVE THEM AMPLE TIME TO FLEE!
IF YOU WOULD HAVE WANTED IT, YOU WOULD SURELY HAVE MADE THE ENEMY SUFFER A FAR GREATER FAILURE!
...
HOWEVER, IN THE END,
YOU DIDN'T EVEN KILL ONE SOLDIER! ISN'T THAT RIGHT ADVISOR?

MISTER HUNG
THANKS FOR THE WONDERFUL PRAISE.
MILITARY ADVISOR.
YOU ARE REALLY TOO KIND.
NO WAY, YOU DISGUISING YOURSELF AS A GIRL WAS THE TRUE WONDER, MILITARY ADVISOR!
AND YET, IF IT WASN'T FOR YOUR SUPERB ACTING SKILLS, I DOUBT MY PLAN WOULD HAVE WORKED.
NOW, LET'S HOPE THAT THIS FOG STAYS THIS THICK A LITTLE LONGER.
YES....

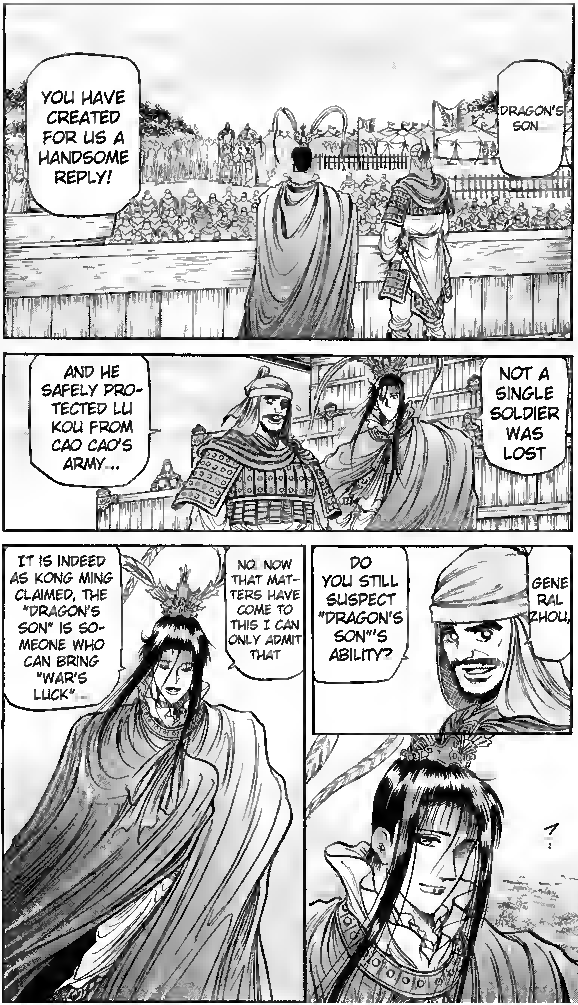
THE FOG LASTED FOR ANOTHER TWO DAYS
JUST AS SHIRO HOPED FOR

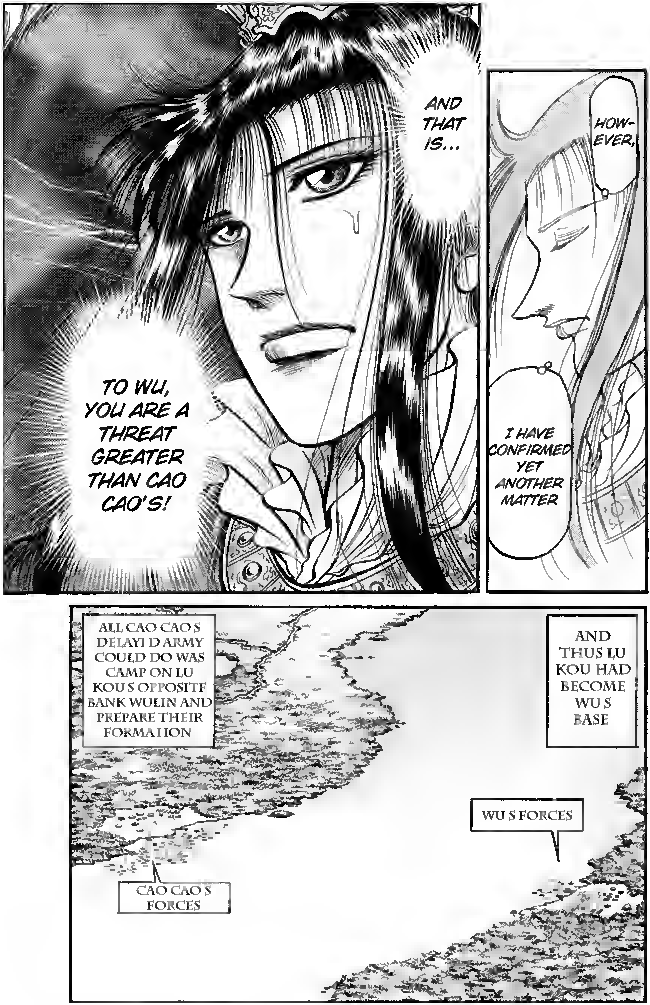

LOST IN THE FOG THEY COULDN T ESCAPE AND KEPT ON MAKING CIRCLES WHEN THE FOG FINALLY DISSIPATED AND THEY WERE ABLE TO HURRY ON TO LU KOU THEY FOUND THEY WERE ALREADY TOO LATE
WHAT CAO CAO FEARED FOR HAPPENED THE NAVIGATOR BECAME LOST AT DONG TING HU


LIU BEI S ARMY HAD MANAGED TO HOLD LU KOU WITHOUT A SINGLE LOSS WHEN WU S ARMY ARRIVED
SHIRO S DIVERSIONAL STRATEGEM HAD WORKED BEAUTIFULLY AND

ADDING ANOTHER STORY TO THE DRAGON'S STRATEGIST STORY COLLECTION
SHIRO!
THE SUCCESS OF THE PLAN SPREAD THROUGH WU LIKE A WILDFIRE WITH WU'S CITIZENS TREATING IT AS A FOLK TALE

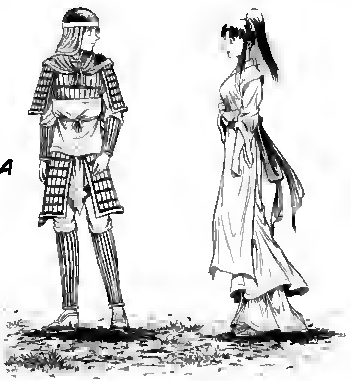
ADVISOR KONG MING!
LIAN HUA!


YOU HAVE CREATED FOR US A HANDSOME REPLY!
DRAGON'S SON...
AND HE SAFELY PROTECTED LIU KOU FROM CAO CAO'S ARMY...
NOT A SINGLE SOLDIER WAS LOST
IT IS INDEED AS KONG MING CLAIMED, THE "DRAGON'S SON" IS SOMEONE WHO CAN BRING "WAR'S LUCK"...
NO. NOW THAT MATTERS HAVE COME TO THIS I CAN ONLY ADMIT THAT
DO YOU STILL SUSPECT "DRAGON'S SON"'S ABILITY?
GENERAL ZHOU,
?!


TO WU, YOU ARE A THREAT GREATER THAN CAO CAO'S!
AND THAT IS...
HOW-EVER,
I HAVE CONFIRMED YET ANOTHER MATTER
ALL CAO CAO S DELAYI D ARMY COULD DO WAS CAMP ON LU KOU S OPPOSITF BANK WULIN AND PREPARE THEIR FORMATION
AND THUS LU KOU HAD BECOME WU S BASE
WU S FORCES
CAO CAO S FORCES

THE STAGE FOR THE BATTLE AT CHIBI HAD FINALLY BEEN SET!
AND THUS IT BEGAN, THE ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS MOST INFAMOUS HISTORIC EVENT
CHAPTER 37 END

RYUURODEN



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- PROOFREADER: MKOR
- EDITOR: RAVENOUSREADER

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HEY EVERYONE,

TIME FOR A CHRISTMAS RELEASE OF RYUURODEN. WE'RE GOING OUT WITH THE WHOLE VOLUME 10 ALL AT ONCE. OTHER THAN THAT, WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR JAPANESE AND CHINESE TRANSLATORS. EDITORS TOO. SEND A MAIL TO JOIN@JANKENPON.DE AND TELL US ABOUT IT, MORE HELP IS VERY WELCOME! WELL, SEE YA ALL AROUND!

- APEMAN

CHAPTER 38:
THIS RIVER'S OPPOSITE SHORE

A 12 YEAR OLD'S NIGHT-MARE...
I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE MOM LYING IN THAT COFFIN....
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT...
I TRIED TO ESCAPE REALITY...
BUT HOW COULD I?
A SPEEDING CAR KNOCKED DOWN MOM WHILE SHE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT ME...
BUT IT DID HAPPEN... RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES!

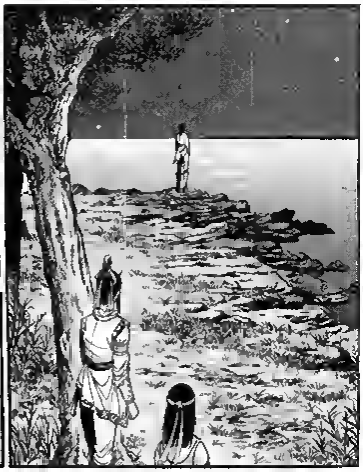
THE WARMTH FROM HER HAND IS WHAT PULLED ME BACK TO THE REAL WORLD
AT THAT TIME, MASUMI NEVER GAVE UP ON ME...
IT'S AS IF HER TREMBLING HAND WANTED TO TELL ME THAT.
"I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU..."

I CAN FEEL IT...
SHE'S IN THAT FOREST... ON THE OTHER SHORE OF THAT RIVER
I HAD ALREADY SENSED HER PRESENCE BEFORE...

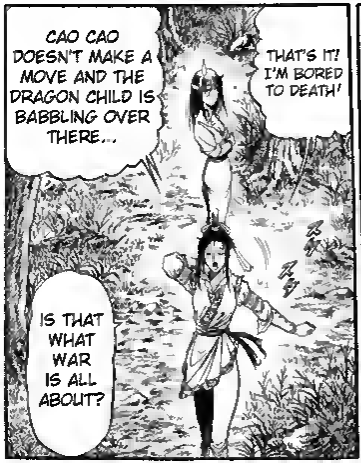
DURING THE BATTLE AT TANG YANG BRIDGE, I KNEW SHE WAS THERE.
I SWEAR...
I'LL COME FOR YOU!
BUT I COULDN'T EVEN CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HER!
WE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE TOGETHER SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
AND
I'M NOT ABOUT TO LOSE ANOTHER PRECIOUS PERSON AND LET HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF...

ギュッ
EVEN MY NECK-LACE IS BROKEN IN HALF,
AS IF DESTINY WANTED US TO GROW APART...
STILL, I'M NO LONGER A WEAK CHILD CRYING OVER HIS MOTHER...
I HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BRING THE TWO HALVES BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!

I CAN'T HEAR HIM CLEARLY FROM HERE...
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE MUM-BLING?



I TAILED HIM HERE BECAUSE I THOUGHT HE WAS ABOUT TO START PRACTISING HIS TECH-NIQUES...
I'M GETTING TOTALLY BORED!


CAO CAO DOESN'T MAKE A MOVE AND THE DRAGON CHILD IS BABBLING OVER THERE...
THAT'S IT! I'M BORED TO DEATH!
IS THAT WHAT WAR IS ALL ABOUT?

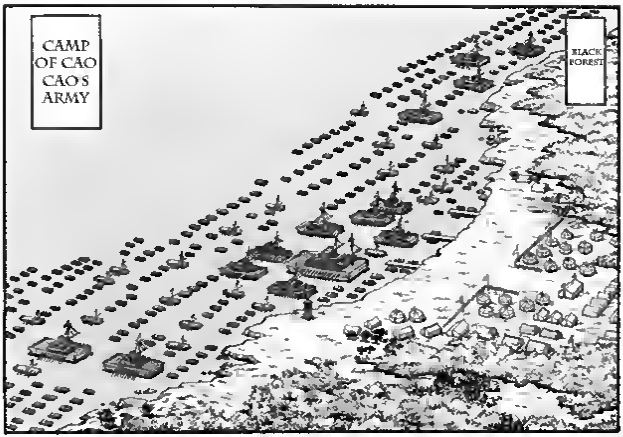
CAN HE TALK TO THE FISH, LIAN HUA?
BUT HE'S JUST MUMBLING BY THE RIVER.

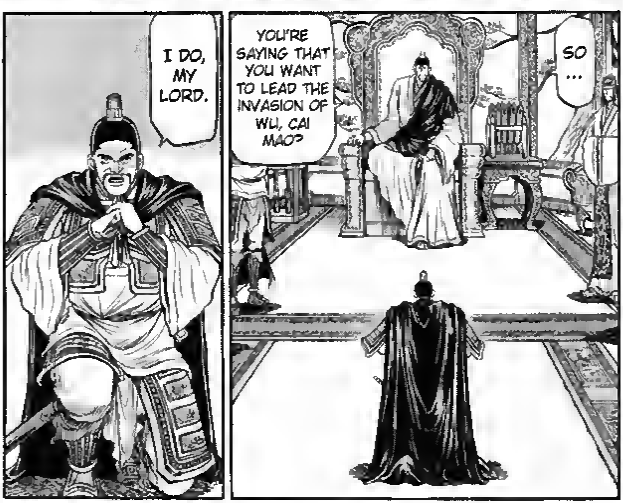
WHO KNOWS...

LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO GO ALL OUT AT ANY MINUTE...
HE DOES LOOK
ﾅﾝｶ...
SHIRO...
CAO CAO IS A SERIOUS AND PERCEPTIVE PERSON...
ON THE OTHER HAND...
WU'S CAMP

WE SHOULD MAKE THE FIRST MOVE!
THAT SHOWS HOW WARY OF OUR NAVY'S STRENGTH HE IS...
PIONEER DAN YANG PROVINCE CHIEF HUANG
SHOULDN'T HE HAVE ATTACKED US BY NOW?
HE'S GOT A VERY LARGE ARMY
COMMANDER OF THE NAVY GAN NING
BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED AT ALL, HUANG.
THE YEARS PASS BY
WU'S ARMY, RIGHT MASTER GENERAL CHENG PU
HOWEVER, I DARE NOT AGREE WITH YOUR SUGGESTION TO ATTACK CAO CAO FIRST
HAHA, PLEASE DON'T GET SO ANGRY, I APOLOGIZE FOR OFFENDING YOU
I HAVE INDEED GROWN OLD, BUT AS A SWORDSMAN I WON'T LOSE TO THE YOUNGSTERS!

ABSO-LUTELY.
SINCE HE'LL COME FOR US NO MATTER WHAT WE DO...
ISN'T THAT SO, GENERAL ZHOU?
WU'S ARMY, LEFT MASTER GENERAL ZHOU YU
IN ORDER TO SAVE "FACE", HE HAS TO TRY AND INVADE US AT ALL COSTS...
RIGHT NOW, COMMANDER CAI MAO IS UNABLE TO GAIN THE LANDING AREA...
THEY MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WU'S ARMY ISN'T TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY!
CAO CAO'S ARMY IS ONLY ABOUT NUMBERS...

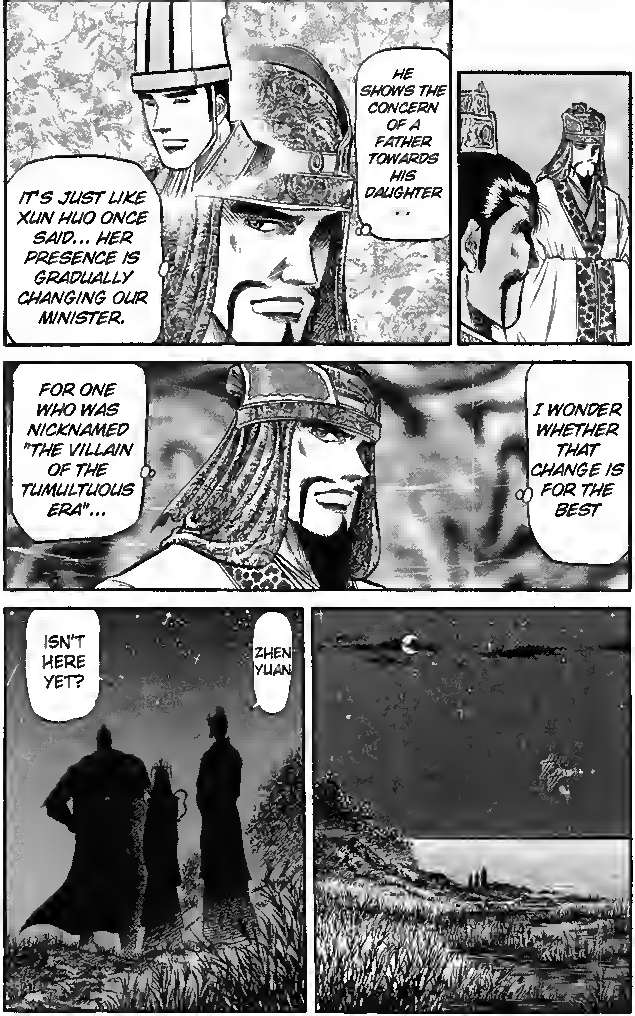

CAMP OF CAO CAO'S ARMY
BLACK FOREST


I DO, MY LORD.
YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU WANT TO LEAD THE INVASION OF WU, CAI MAO?
SO ...

AND I BELIEVE I'M ALSO SKILLED IN NAVY WARFARE THEREFORE I'D LIKE TO REDEEM OUR EARLIER DEFEAT ON LAND.
THEIR NAVY'S PROWESS SET ASIDE, THEY STILL CAN'T MATCH OUR NUMBERS...
SO YOU'LL TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR DEFEAT AT THE LANDING AREA?
OH ...
YOUR SERVANT WILL NOW GO AND MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING BATTLE
I HUMBLY THANK YOU, MY LORD.
I'LL GRANT YOU 30.000 MEN... SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO.
SO BE IT ...

YES!
ZHANG LIAO!
YOU'LL ACCOMPANY CAI MAO ON HIS MISSION.
AS YOU COMMAND!
I WANT YOU TO GAUGE ZHOU YU'S ABILITIES AT NAVAL BATTLES.
BUT YOU ARE NEITHER TO OVERSEE THE BATTLE NOR LEAD THE ARMY...

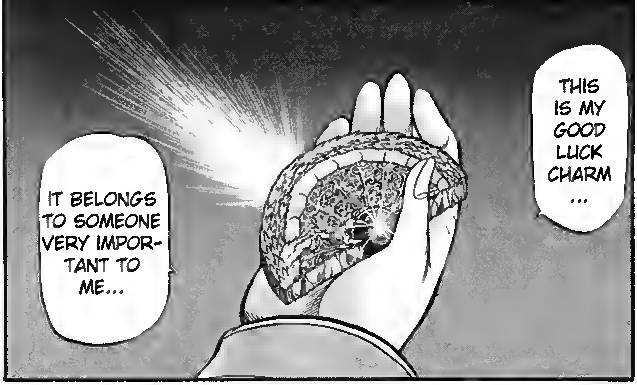
SHEN
IS "SHE" STILL TAKING HER STROLLS?
ナラ
THE DRAGON GODDESS HAS BEEN INSPECTING OUR VARIOUS ARMY CAMPS SINCE SUNRISE. POSSIBLY BECAUSE SHE'S ABLE TO MOVE ABOUT FREELY AT THIS MOMENT?
. . .
CENTRAL ARMY COMMANDER SHEN
OH WELL ...
ISN'T APPRO-PRIATE FOR A YOUNG LADY.
MOVING ABOUT SO LATE AT NIGHT
BOTH HER SERVANT AND XU TU ARE WITH HER AT THE MOMENT.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S A NEED TO WORRY.

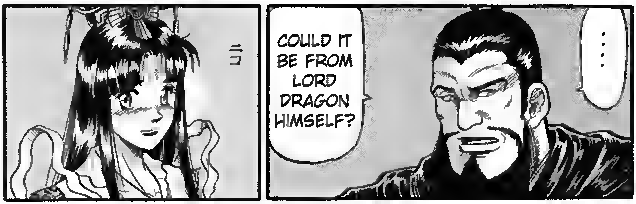

HE SHOWS THE CONCERN OF A FATHER TOWARDS HIS DAUGHTER . . .
IT'S JUST LIKE XUN HUO ONCE SAID... HER PRESENCE IS GRADUALLY CHANGING OUR MINISTER.
FOR ONE WHO WAS NICKNAMED "THE VILLAIN OF THE TUMULTUOUS ERA"...
I WONDER WHETHER THAT CHANGE IS FOR THE BEST
ISN'T HERE YET?
ZHEN YUAN

ZHEN YUAN!
MEI FANG!
SORRY! I COULDN'T SLIP OUT OF MY CAMP ANY SOONER!
HOW COME YOU'RE SO LATE?
PRIN-CESS ...
THAT'S FINE, GENERAL, I DON'T MIND.
FIRST YOU TROUBLE THE DRAGON GODDESS AND THEN YOU DARE SHOW UP LATE?
WHAT'S WITH THE "SORRY"?
WHY WOULD YOU TAKE STROLLS THIS LATE JUST TO HELP YOUR SERVANT WITH HIS RENDEZ-VOUS?
IF I MAY ASK ...
GENE RAL XU.

PLEASE DON'T BE TOO HARSH WITH THEM...
THEIR MEETINGS CAN COST YOU A LOT MORE!
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE...
I AGREED TO HER REQUEST KNOWING THIS...
ME! REQUESTED TO BE MY SERVANT BECAUSE ZHEN BECAME A FOOT SOLDIER.
WHY DON'T YOU GO AHEAD AND GIVE "IT" TO ZHEN?
DON'T WORRY, ME!...
OH... YES!
ERM.
IF ANYONE IS TO BLAME... IT WOULD BE ME.
TERRIBLY SORRY, MIS-TRESS.
I'M

MEI FANG...
ZHEN YUAN,
THIS IS A GOOD LUCK CHARM THAT I MADE FOR YOU. THERE ARE SOME STRANDS OF MY HAIR IN IT...
...
THAT'S ALL I CAN DO... BUT MAYBE YOU'D LIKE A BLESSING FROM THE DRAGON GODDESS INSTEAD?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE...
AN AMULET IS MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN CONTAINING SOMETHING FROM THE PERSON THAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU
...
HAVE A LOOK AT THIS, MEI FANG...
BUT...
...


THIS IS MY GOOD LUCK CHARM ...
IT BELONGS TO SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME...


COULD IT BE FROM LORD DRAGON HIMSELF?
...
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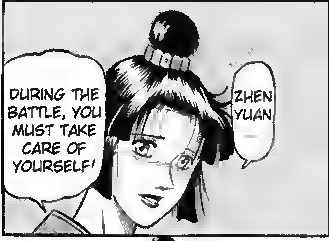
THE MOST IMPORTANT IS A PERSON'S "WILL TO LIVE ON"...
IN ORDER TO SURVIVE,

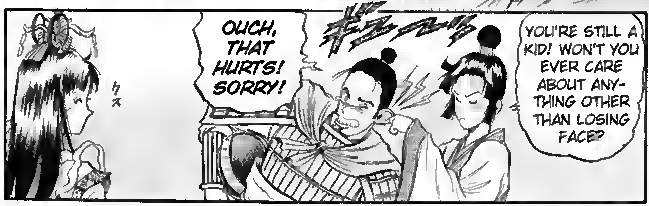
HOWEVER, A PERSON'S DESTINY...
WON'T BE GREATLY INFLUENCED BY HOLDING A CHARM.

A CHARM MERELY ADDS TO ONE'S RESOLVE...
BECAUSE THAT AMULET IS FILLED WITH THE WISH TO BE WITH THE PERSON YOU LOVE.
IF I CARRY IT WITH ME, I'LL FEEL AS IF THAT PERSON IS RIGHT BY MY SIDE
AND IT GIVES ME THE COURAGE THAT I NEED TO PERSE-VERE...
!

I CAN'T DIE BECAUSE THERE WON'T BE ONE BUT TWO GIRLS THAT'LL MISS ME OTHERWISE!
NAH, I'M SURE IT'LL BE ALRIGHT...
!

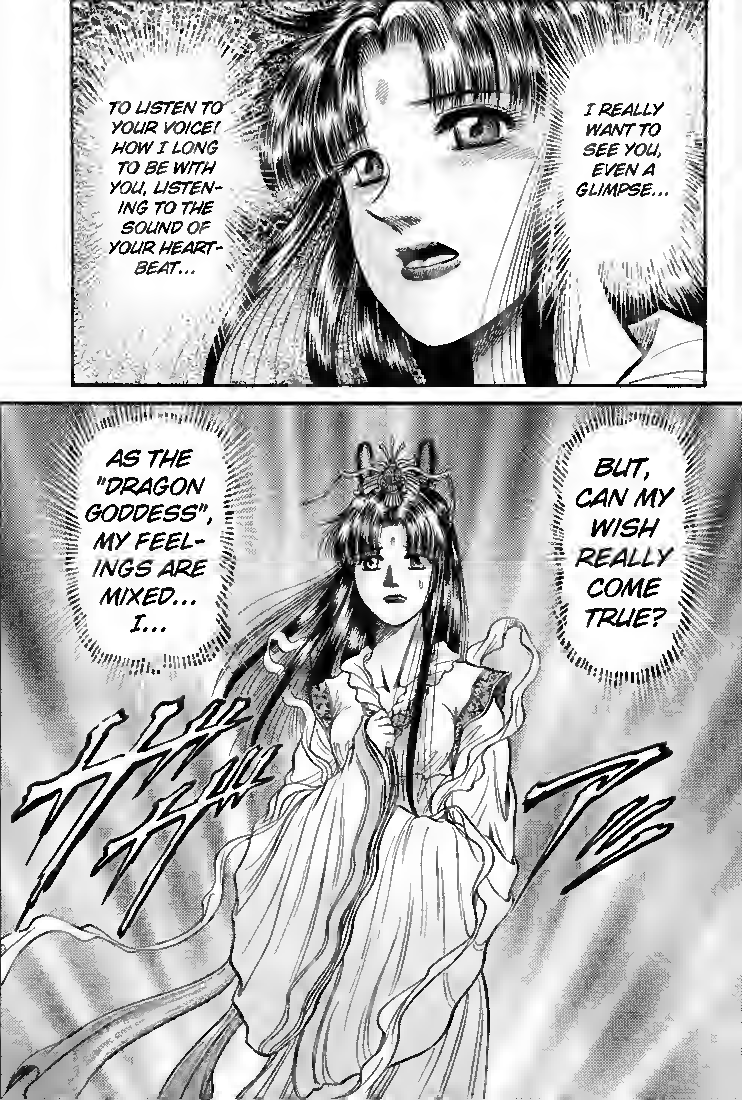

ZHEN YUAN...
DURING THE BATTLE, YOU MUST TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

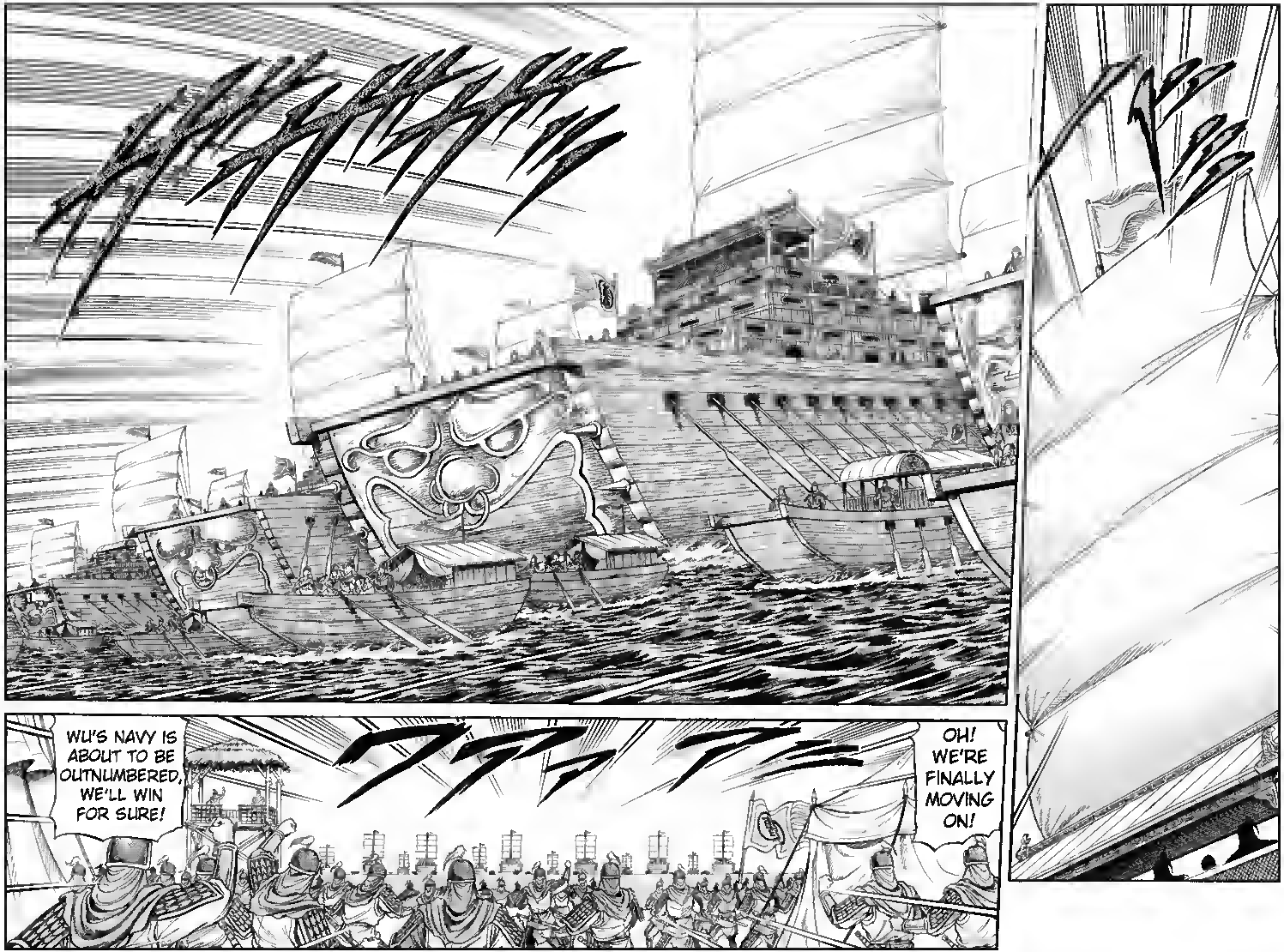
ERM...

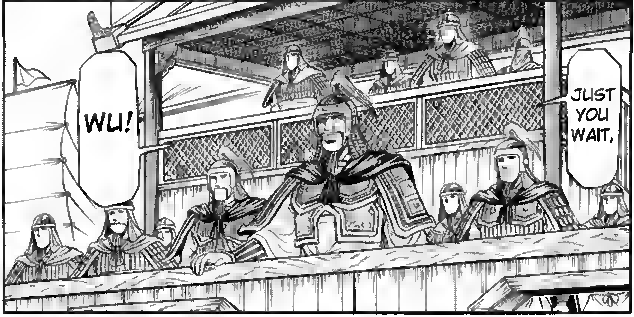

OUCH, THAT HURTS! SORRY!
YOU'RE STILL A KID! WON'T YOU EVER CARE ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN LOSING FACE?

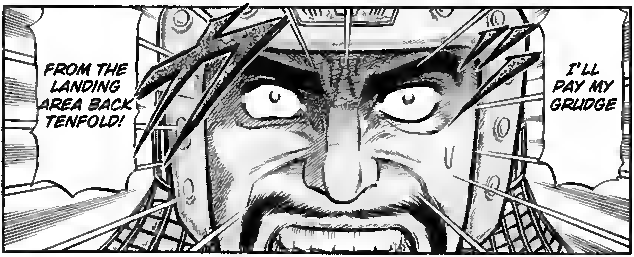
SHIRO...

THEY'RE ALSO CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.
LOOKS LIKE


I REALLY WANT TO SEE YOU, EVEN A GLIMPSE...
TO LISTEN TO YOUR VOICE! HOW I LONG TO BE WITH YOU, LISTENING TO THE SOUND OF YOUR HEARTBEAT...
BUT, CAN MY WISH REALLY COME TRUE?
AS THE "DRAGON GODDESS", MY FEELINGS ARE MIXED... I...

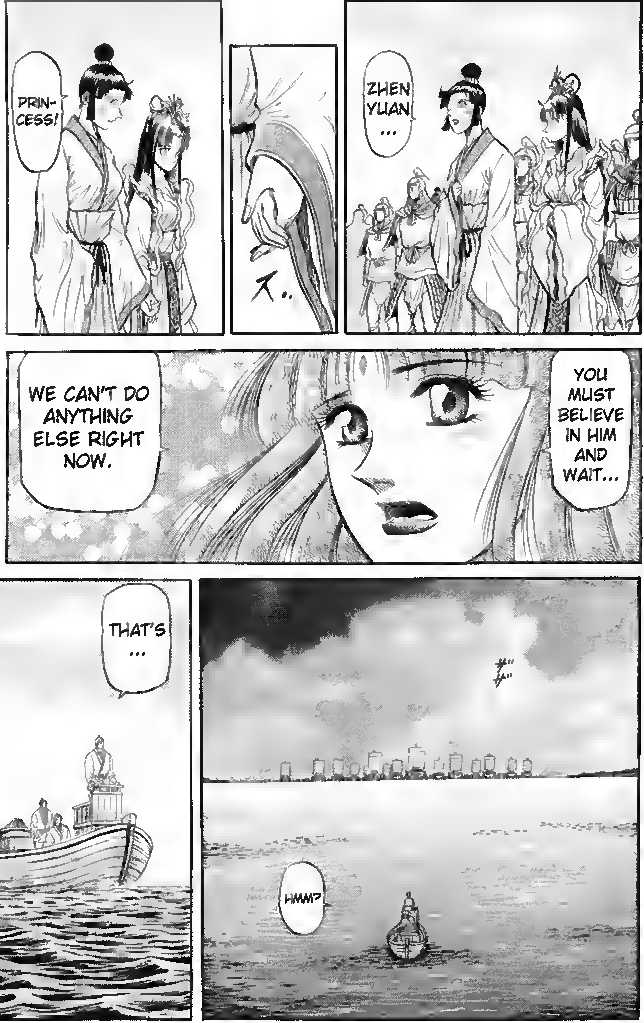

WU'S NAVY IS ABOUT TO BE OUTNUMBERED, WE'LL WIN FOR SURE!
OH! WE'RE FINALLY MOVING ON!

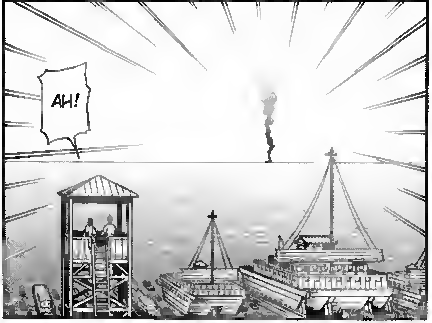

WU!
JUST YOU WAIT,


FROM THE LANDING AREA BACK TENFOLD!
I'LL PAY MY GRUDGE

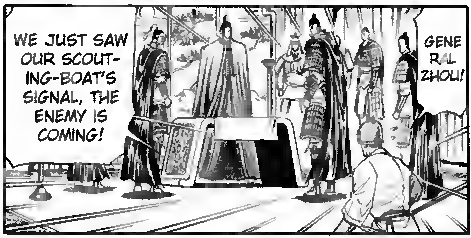
SHOW ME WHAT YOU'LL DO AGAINST MY 30.000 MEN, ZHOU YU!
WU'S NAVY TOTALS AROUND 40.000 MEN...

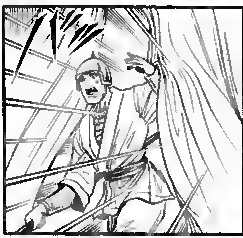
HEH..


PRIN-
CESS!
ZHEN YUAN...
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE RIGHT NOW.
YOU MUST BELIEVE IN HIM AND WAIT...
THAT'S...
HMM?


AH!

THAT'S CAO CAO'S NAVY!
SEND THE SMOKE SIGNAL!

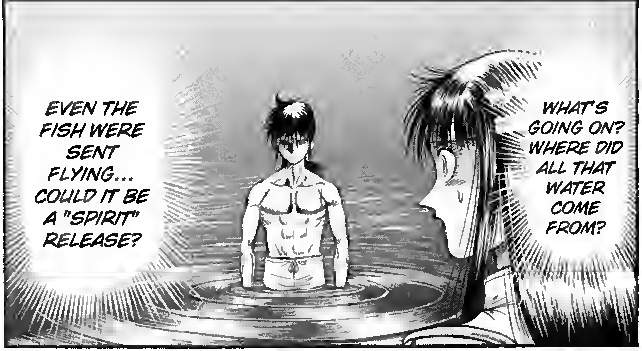

WE JUST SAW OUR SCOUTING-BOAT'S SIGNAL, THE ENEMY IS COMING!
GENERAL ZHOU!

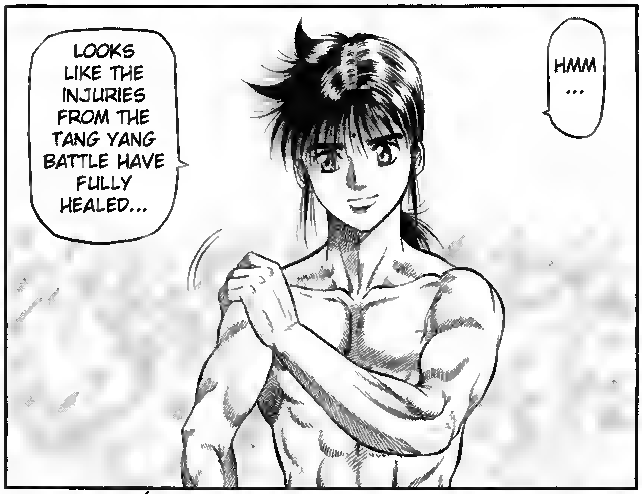


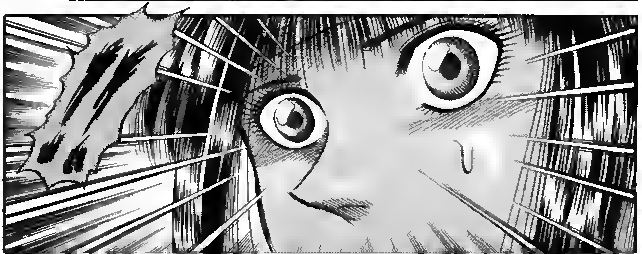
LET'S GO! GAN NING! HUANG GAI!
FINALLY...

HURRY!
THEY SAY THAT CAO CAO'S ARMY IS ON THE MOVE!
SHIRO!
I KNOW
THE WATER'S SURFACE CARRIES A VERY STRONG "BATTLE SPIRIT"...
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

AH!


EVEN THE FISH WERE SENT FLYING... COULD IT BE A "SPIRIT" RELEASE?
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE DID ALL THAT WATER COME FROM?


LOOKS LIKE THE INJURIES FROM THE TANG YANG BATTLE HAVE FULLY HEALED...
HMM ...



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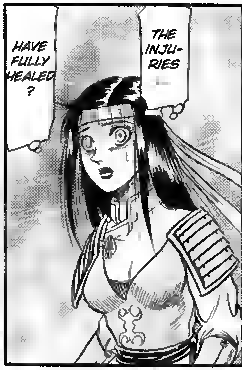
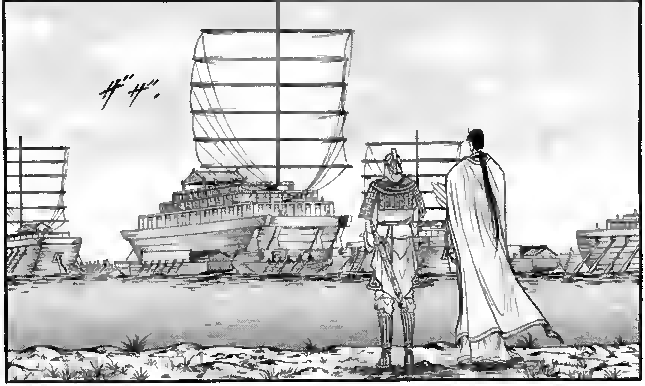
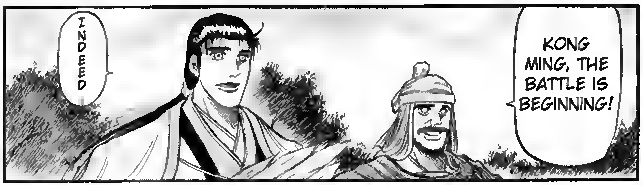
THAT MEANS HE FOUGHT HEAD ON WITH "THE THREE SAINTS"
AND GAN NING WHILE INJURED?


THE INJU-RIES
HAVE FULLY HEALED?

LIAN HUA, WOULD YOU REPORT MY MESSAGE TO GENERAL ZHAO YUN FOR ME?
TELL HIM THAT I'M LEAVING TO SAVE MASUMI!

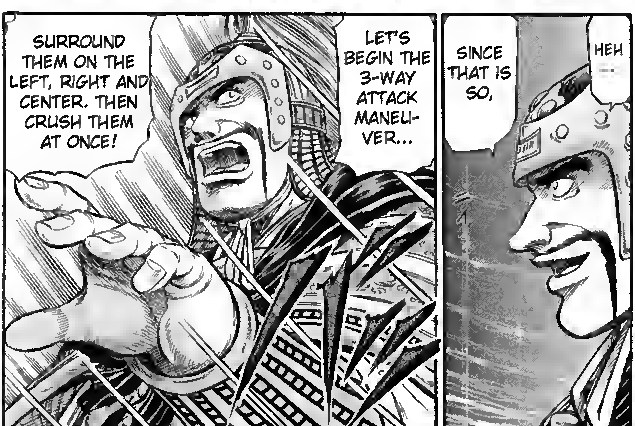



KONG MING, THE BATTLE IS BEGINNING!
INDEED

SO YOU'LL USE NO MORE THAN 5,000 TO COUNTER CAO CAO'S LARGE FORCE?
LET'S SEE WHAT BRILLIANT PLAN YOU HAVE COME UP WITH, ZHOU YU!

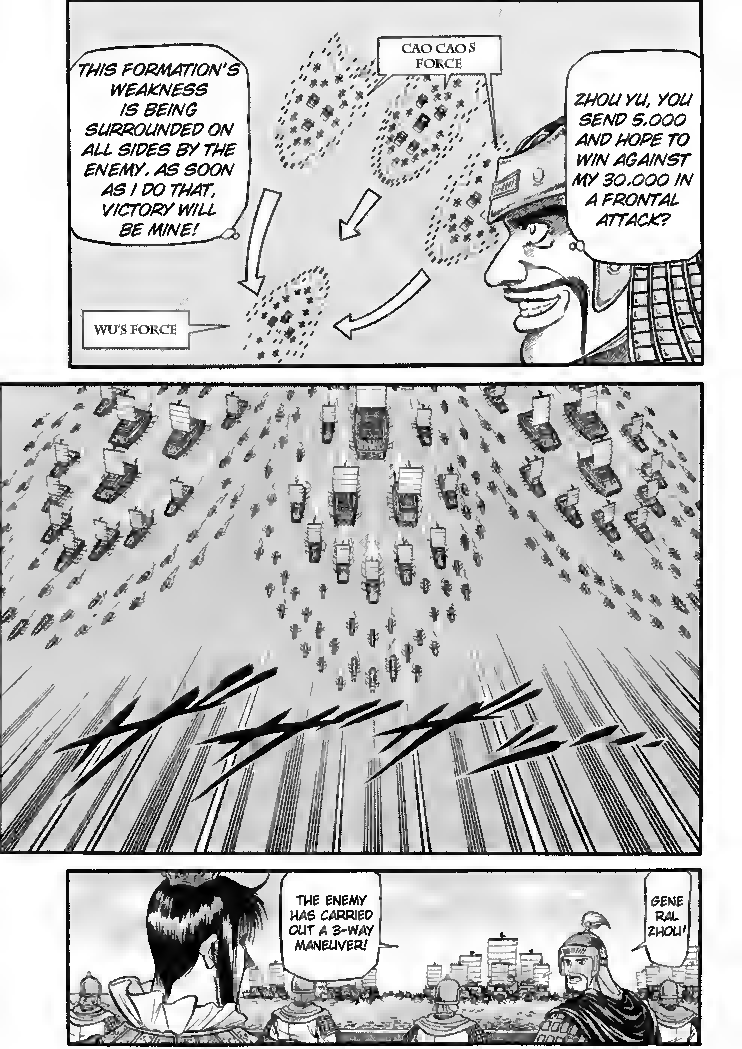
SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE USING THE SAME "FISH FORMATION"* AS OUR FLEET, THOUGH.
LOOK AT THAT PATHETIC FLEET... THEY LOOK LIKE HAVING 5,000 SOLDIERS IS ALREADY A FEAT BY ITSELF!

BUT THEY DON'T EVEN SEEM TO KNOW HOW TO COUNT! HOW CAN 5 000 MEN WIN IF THEY'RE USING THE SAME STRATEGY AS A 30 000 FORCE?
RUMOUR HAS IT THAT THEY EXCEL AT NAVAL BATTLES...


SURROUND THEM ON THE LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTER. THEN CRUSH THEM AT ONCE!
LET'S BEGIN THE 3-WAY ATTACK MANEU-VER...
SINCE THAT IS SO,
HEH...

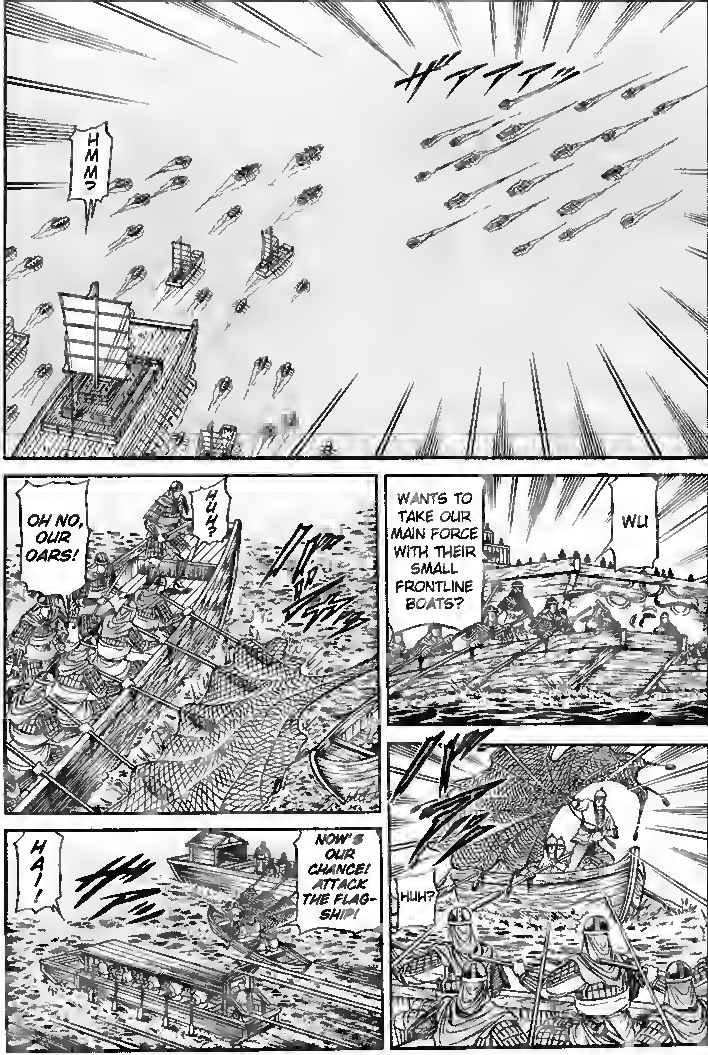
NOTE

FISH FORMATION: THE BOATS ARE ARRANGED TOGETHER LIKE A SCHOOL OF FISH


THIS FORMATION'S WEAKNESS IS BEING SURROUNDED ON ALL SIDES BY THE ENEMY. AS SOON AS I DO THAT, VICTORY WILL BE MINE!
CAO CAO'S FORCE
ZHOU YU, YOU SEND 5,000 AND HOPE TO WIN AGAINST MY 30,000 IN A FRONTAL ATTACK?
WU'S FORCE
THE ENEMY HAS CARRIED OUT A 3-WAY MANEUVER!
GENERAL ZHOU!

THAT CAI MAO
IS SO EASILY TRICKED!
ALL BOATS TURN LEFT, STERN INTO THE CURRENT AND RETREAT!
YES!
LAUNCH THE NEXT WAVE OF ATTACK WHEN THE ENEMY'S FLAGSHIP IN THE CENTRAL GROUP
TURNS INTO THE CURRENT TO PURSUE
WHAT?
HOW STUPID!
YOU THINK THAT ESCAPING STERN-WISE WILL SLIP YOU THROUGH MY SURROUNDING STRATEGY?

MY ONLY CONCERN, THOUGH, IS WHY THEY WOULD BE RETREATING INTO THE CURRENT...
YEAH .. NO MATTER HOW HE TRIES TO ESCAPE, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE CATCH UP TO HIM.
...
ATTACK!
LET'S GO!
THEIR FLAGSHIP JUST TURNED INTO THE CURRENT!
ALRIGHT!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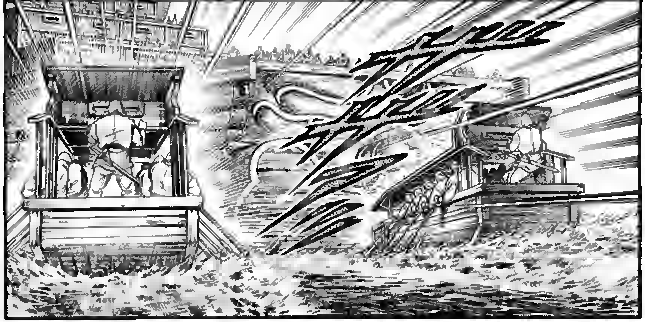
HMM?
OH NO, OUR OARS!
HUH?
WU
WANTS TO TAKE OUR MAIN FORCE WITH THEIR SMALL FRONTLINE BOATS?
HUH?
HA!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE! ATTACK THE FLAG-SHIP!



NOTE
CRACK BOATS
THOSE BOATS
THAT FIRST
PIERCE THE
ARMY'S
DEFENSIVE
LINE

SHOOT THEM!
DAMN!
BRACE FOR IMPACT!
IT'S USELESS, OUR ARROWS CAN'T PIERCE THOSE ROOFS!

ALRIGHT!
TIME TO DROP THOSE ANCHORS!
WUO!
RETREAT! SEPARATE FROM THE SPEARS!
WHAT? THE BOATS AND SPEARS HAVE SEPARATED?
THEY'RE MAKING A RUN FOR IT?

THEY MUST HAVE ATTACHED ANCHORS TO THEIR SPEARS!
GENERAL, THE SHIP HAS BEEN IMMOBILISED!
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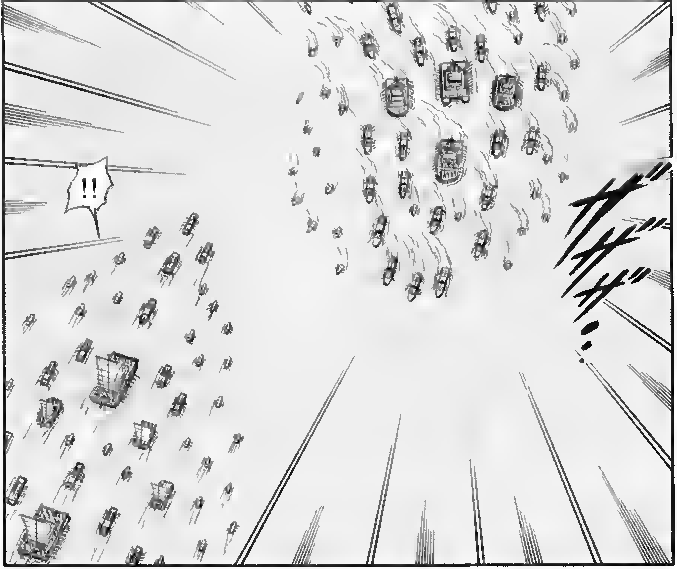
WHAT?
ANCHORS?
GENERAL, THE OTHER SHIPS HAVE ALSO FALLEN VICTIM TO THAT STRATEGY!
THE BOAT HAS BEEN IMMOBILISED!
!

NOW
I DIDN'T THINK HE HAD SUCH TRICKERY UP HIS SLEEVE!
THAT CUNNING ZHOU YU LOOKED AS IF HE WAS ATTACKING FROM THE FRONT..
ALL BOATS SHOULD TURN AND ATTACK THE ENEMY ON THE LEFT!
THAT THE ENEMY'S CENTRAL FLEET HAS BEEN IMMOBIL-ISED...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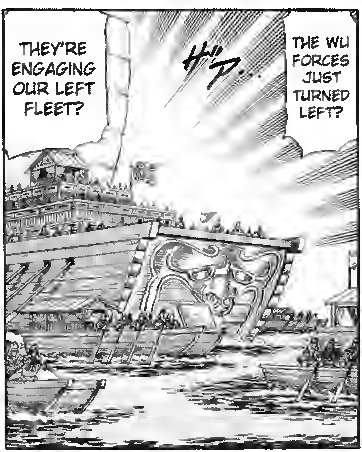
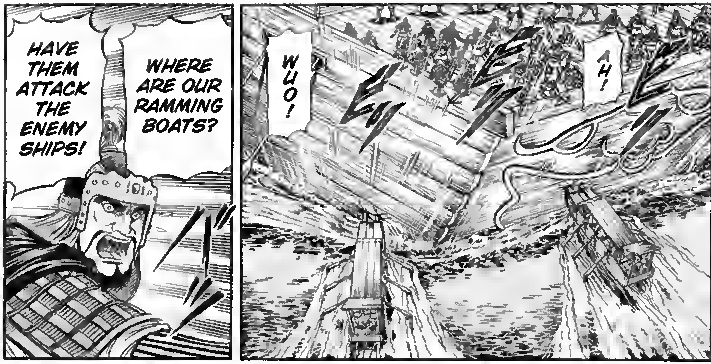
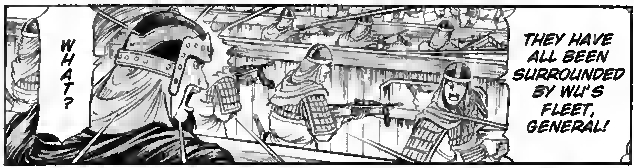
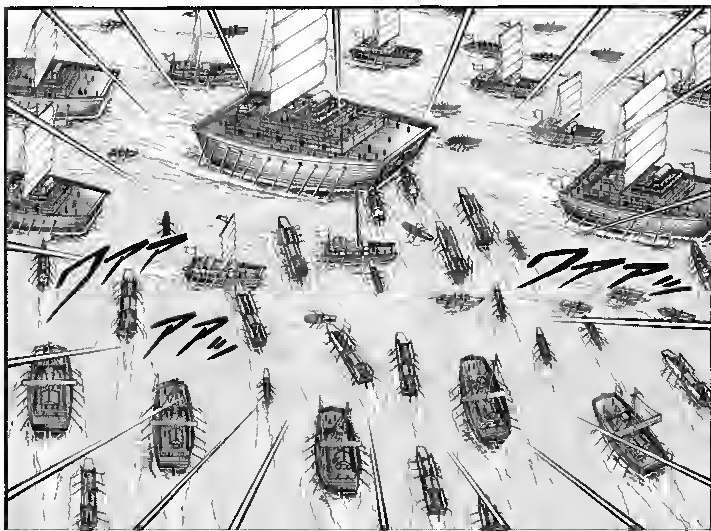
PREPARE
FOR BATTLE! ARCHERS, READY!


THE WU FORCES JUST TURNED LEFT?
THEY'RE ENGAGING OUR LEFT FLEET?

RAMMING BOATS: PURPOSE-BUILT TO RAM INTO ENEMY BOATS
WU'S RAMMING BOATS ARE HEADING STRAIGHT AT US.
GENERAL WEN PING!
WHAT?
IS THIS THE FEARED NAVY OF WU?
THEY MAY BE FOLLOWING THE CURRENT, BUT NO SHIP COULD POSSIBLY SAIL THAT FAST!
DAMN!

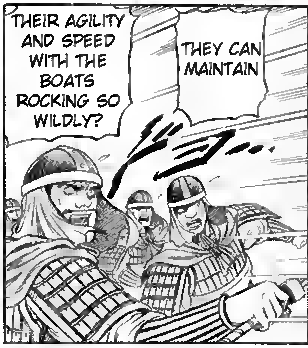

HAVE THEM ATTACK THE ENEMY SHIPS!
WHERE ARE OUR RAMMING BOATS?
WUO!
AH!


WHAT?
THEY HAVE ALL BEEN SURROUNDED BY WU'S FLEET, GENERAL!



ARGH!
わあああっ
WUO!
THOSE DESPICA-BLE WU SOLDIERS!
ARGH!
...H?

わあああ
ズガッ
ヒュン!
ドゲッ

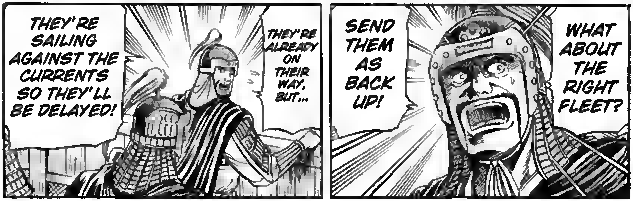

THEIR AGILITY AND SPEED WITH THE BOATS ROCKING SO WILDLY?
THEY CAN MAINTAIN
ビョー…

IS THIS ALL THAT CAI MAO'S SOLDIERS CAN DO?
SUCH POOR TRAIN-ING...

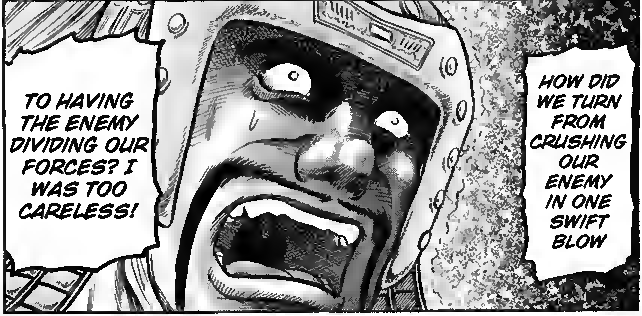
IF THEY CAN'T MAINTAIN THEIR BALANCE ON THOSE ROCKING BOATS, THEN THEY CAN IN NO WAY BE WU'S OPPONENTS!
IT'S THE SAME AS IN THE PROVINCE OF XIN, THOUGH THESE AND XIA KOU'S FORCES ARE INCOMPARABLE. LAND-BASED ARMIES SIMPLY CAN'T BE USED IN WATER-BASED BATTLES.

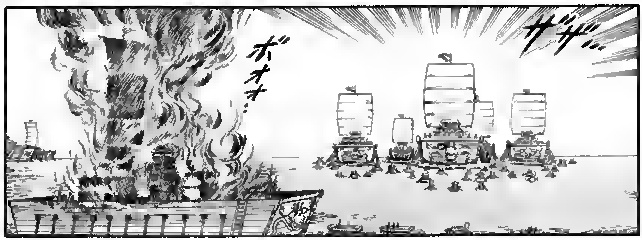
WAH!
DO NOT FALTER! ENGAGE THE ENEMY!
A WU FORCE HAS BOARDED THE BOAT!

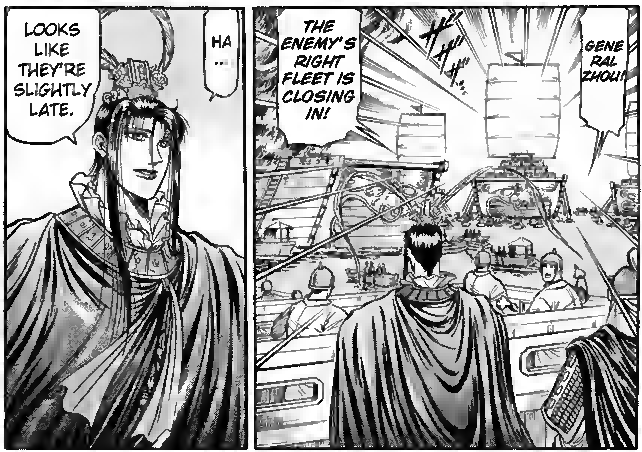
OUR FORCE'S LEFT FLEET IS NOW ON FIRE!
GENERAL CAI MAO!


THEY'RE SAILING AGAINST THE CURRENTS SO THEY'LL BE DELAYED!
THEY'RE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY. BUT...
SEND THEM AS BACK UP!
WHAT ABOUT THE RIGHT FLEET?

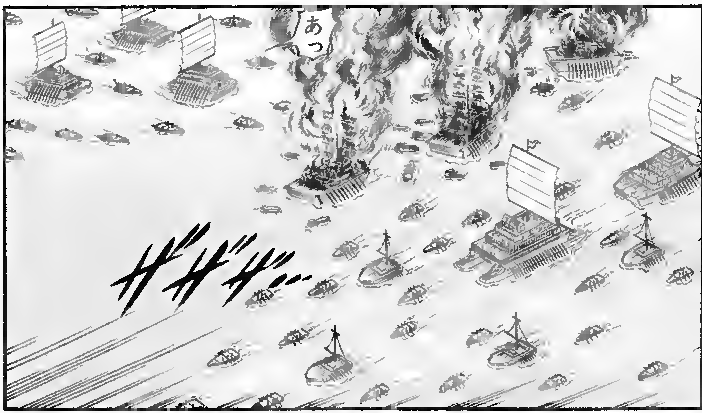
HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?
UGH ...


TO HAVING THE ENEMY DIVIDING OUR FORCES? I WAS TOO CARELESS!
HOW DID WE TURN FROM CRUSHING OUR ENEMY IN ONE SWIFT BLOW




LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE SLIGHTLY LATE.
HA...
THE ENEMY'S RIGHT FLEET IS CLOSING IN!
GENERAL ZHOU!

LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE AND ATTACK THE ENEMY'S MAIN FLEET!
SEND THIS COMMAND TO ALL BOATS..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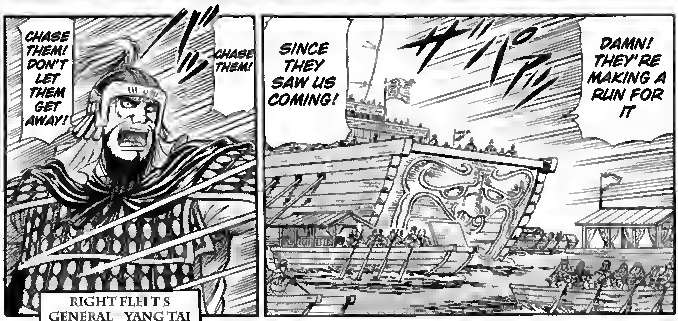
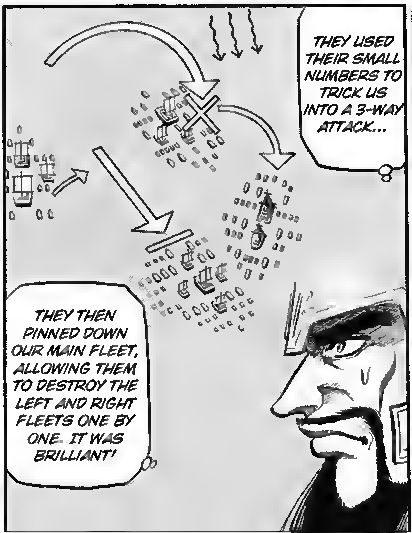

CHASE THEM! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
CHASE THEM!
SINCE THEY SAW US COMING!
DAMN! THEY'RE MAKING A RUN FOR IT
RIGHT FLEET'S GENERAL YANG TAI

HMM?
GENERAL!
THIS CAN'T BE! THEY CAN EVEN SHOOT ACCURATELY FROM THAT KIND OF DISTANCE?
HA ...
TAKE DOWN THE COMMANDING OFFICER AND THE FLEET WILL GO ASTRAY!
THE MAIN FLEET'S BEEN IMMOBILISED, THE LEFT FLEET'S A BURNING MESS...
THE RIGHT FLEET'S LOST ITS COMMANDER, NOW THEY'RE SIMPLY A CONFUSED CROWD!

WU'S FLEET IS SETTING SAIL TOWARDS US!
GENE RAL CAI!

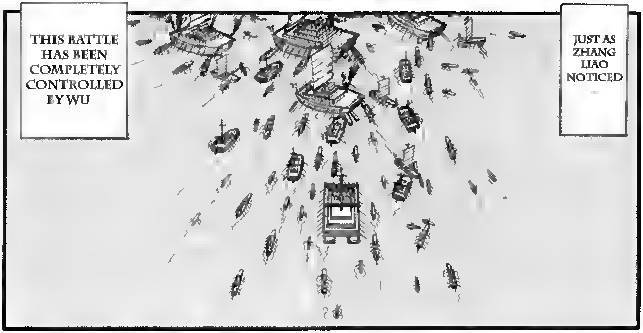
RAISE A FLAG TO CALL THE RIGHT FORCE TO SUPPORT THE MAIN FLEET!
WU ...

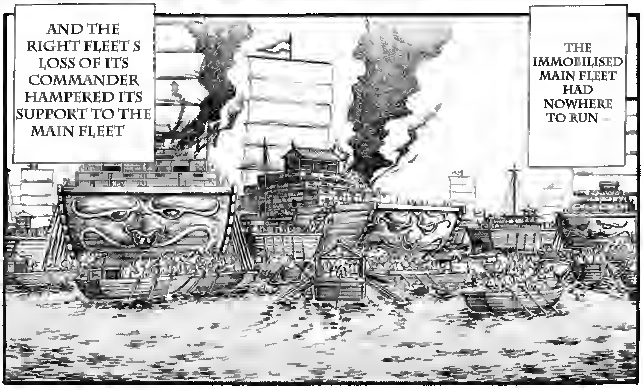

THEY USED THEIR SMALL NUMBERS TO TRICK US INTO A 3-WAY ATTACK...
THEY THEN PINNED DOWN OUR MAIN FLEET, ALLOWING THEM TO DESTROY THE LEFT AND RIGHT FLEETS ONE BY ONE. IT WAS BRILLIANT!

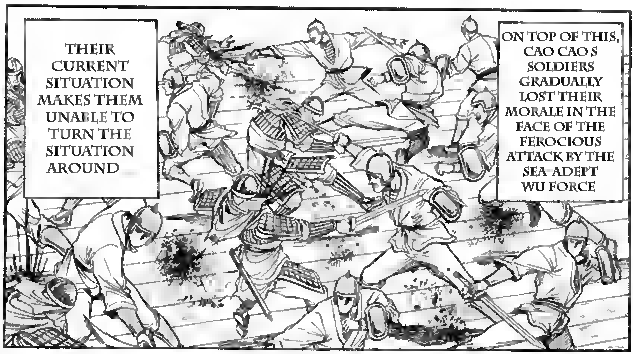
...

TOO LATE!
IT'S ALREA DY

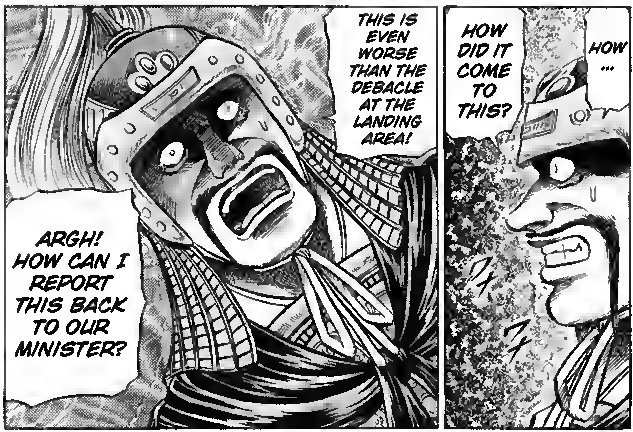
HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED!
THE WINNER OF THIS BATTLE


THIS BATTLE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CONTROLLED BY WU
JUST AS ZHANG LIAO NOTICED


AND THE RIGHT FLEET S LOSS OF ITS COMMANDER HAMPERED ITS SUPPORT TO THE MAIN FLEET
THE IMMOBILISED MAIN FLEET HAD NOWHERE TO RUN


THEIR CURRENT SITUATION MAKES THEM UNABLE TO TURN THE SITUATION AROUND
ON TOP OF THIS, CAO CAO'S SOLDIERS GRADUALLY LOST THEIR MORALE IN THE FACE OF THE FEROCIOUS ATTACK BY THE SEA ADEPT WU FORCE

TO REMAIN ON THIS SHIP... PLEASE ESCAPE IN A BOAT!
GENERAL CAI, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU!

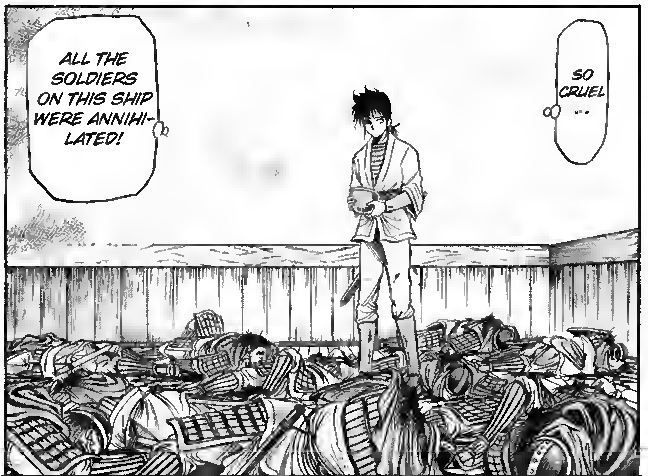

ARGH! HOW CAN I REPORT THIS BACK TO OUR MINISTER?
THIS IS EVEN WORSE THAN THE DEBACLE AT THE LANDING AREA!
HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?
HOW ...

WE'LL STAY BEHIND TO COVER YOUR ESCAPE!
GENERAL!
THE ENEMY'S COMMANDING GENERAL IS RIGHT HERE!
WE POINT THEM!
!
I SWEAR THAT I'LL AVENGE MYSELF!
DAMN THAT ZHOU YU!
MEI FANG ...
FIGHT TILL THE BITTER END, SOLDIERS! WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR GENERAL MAKES IT OFF THE SHIP!
PRAY FOR ME...
PRAY SO THAT I MAY RETURN ALIVE!

WUO HAH!
ANY TRACE OF CAI MAO, HUANG GAI?
NONE, HE MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED.

ホーホーホー…
HE'S ONE LUCKY BASTARD!
HEH!

ス…

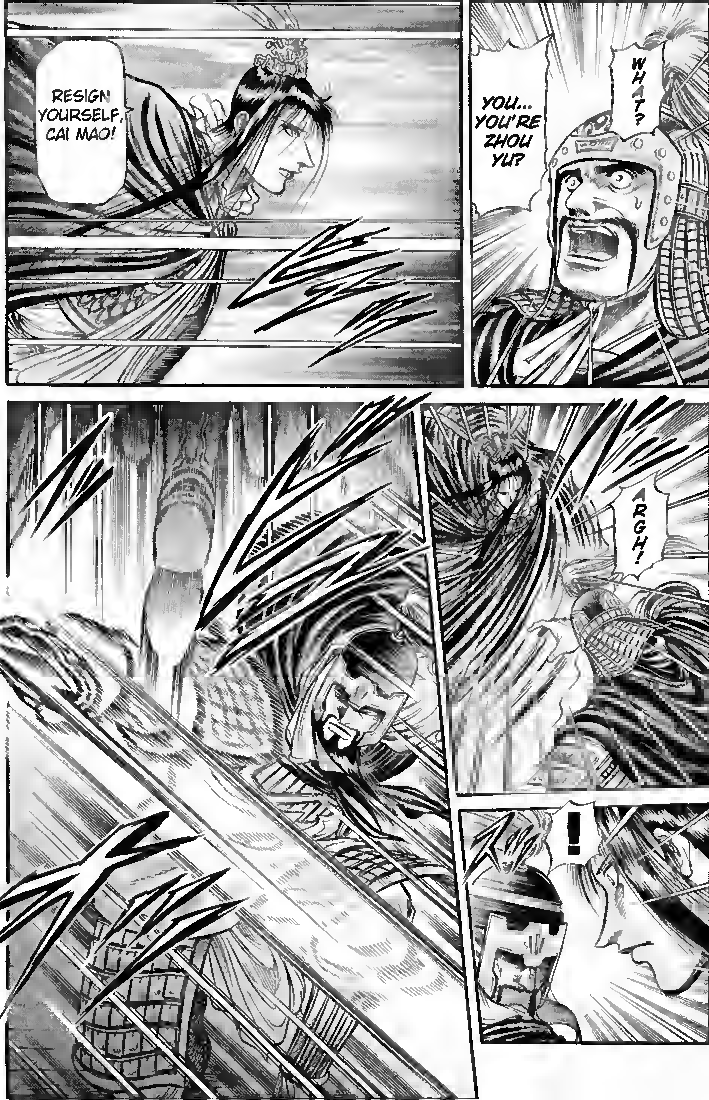

ALL THE SOLDIERS ON THIS SHIP WERE ANNIHI-LATED!
SO CRUEL …

THEY MAY BE ENEMIES ...
BUT AREN'T THEY ALSO RAISED BY PARENTS AND HAVE RELATIVES?
I'M SORRY ...
LET ME BORROW THIS.
I BROUGHT MASUMI TO THIS HORRIFIC BATTLE-GROUND...
AND NOW I'LL FACE MY RESPONSIBIL-ITY!

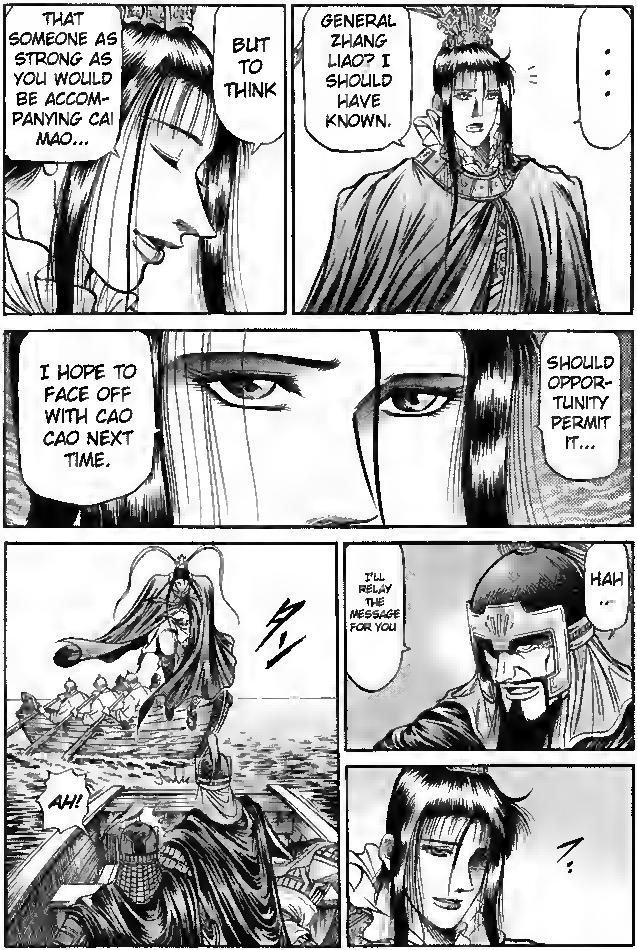
30.000 SOLDIERS... REDUCED TO THIS...
HUH...
ボオオ
MAINTAIN YOUR SPIRIT, CAI MAO!
SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER TO RUN AWAY AND FIGHT ANOTHER DAY!
UH...
WHAT KIND OF...
BOAT IS THAT?
HMM?

ドン
HUH?
WHAT?

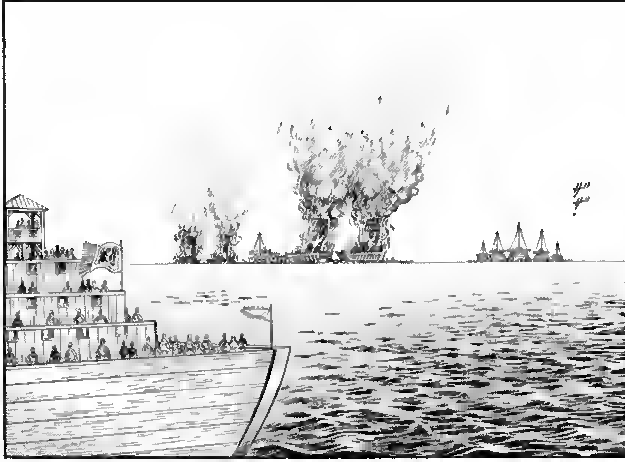
EH?
WHO, WHO ARE YOU?
SORRY FOR THE LONG WAIT, CAI MAO!
I'M ZHOU YU... AT YOUR SERVICE!

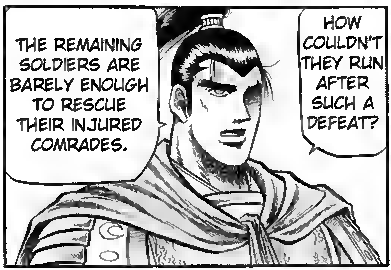

RESIGN YOURSELF, CAI MAO!
YOU... YOU'RE ZHOU YU?
WHAT?
ARGH!
!

ハッ
オオ!
EXCEL-LENT SKILLS ..
I BELIEVE YOU MUST BE AN HONORED FIGHTER?
NOTE: RESPECTFUL WAY TO REFER TO A STRONG OPPONENT
I'M ZHANG WEN YUEN...
YOU DON'T SEEM ANY LESS SKILLFUL THAN I AM.


THAT SOMEONE AS STRONG AS YOU WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING CAI MAO...
BUT TO THINK
GENERAL ZHANG LIAO? I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
...
I HOPE TO FACE OFF WITH CAO CAO NEXT TIME.
SHOULD OPPORTUNITY PERMIT IT...
I'LL RELAY THE MESSAGE FOR YOU
HAH...
AH!
?

WHY ARE THEY RETREATING?
WHAT'S WRONG?
キィ
キィ
!!
SO HE SENSED THE RIGHT FLEET THAT'S CLOSING UP ON US, EH?
I THOUGHT HE WAS DETERMINED TO FINISH US OFF...
YET IT SEEMS THAT ZHOU YU KNOWS WHEN TO ATTACK AND RETREAT.

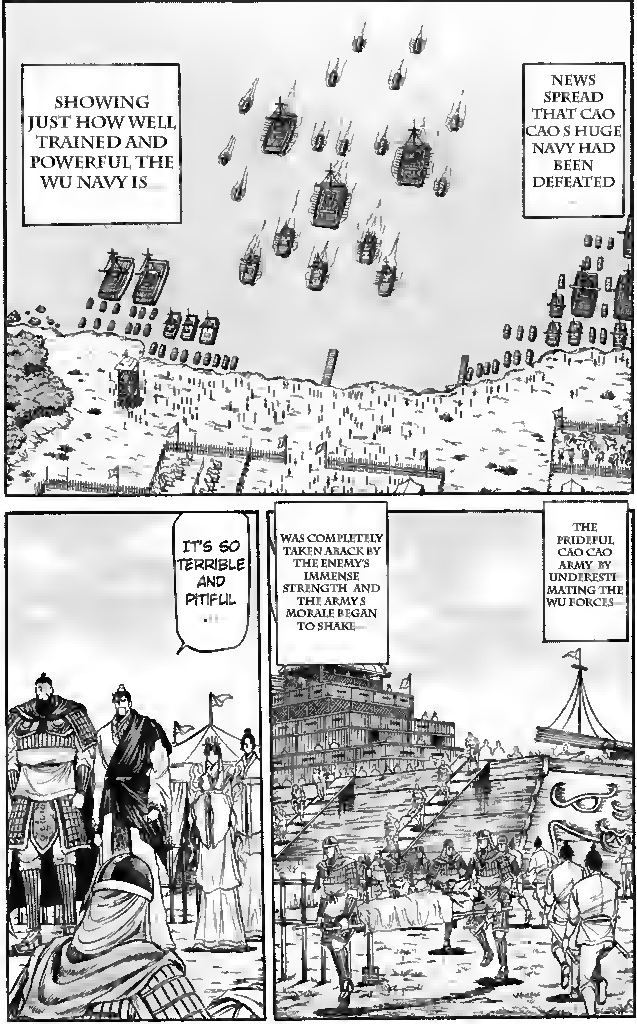



THE REMAINING SOLDIERS ARE BARELY ENOUGH TO RESCUE THEIR INJURED COMRADES.
HOW COULDN'T THEY RUN AFTER SUCH A DEFEAT?

GENERAL ZHAO, CAO CAO'S ARMY LOOKS TO BE ON THE RUN!

TO THINK THAT WU HIDES SUCH A GENIUS AS ZHOU YU...
THIS BATTLE WAS MAGNIFI-CENT...

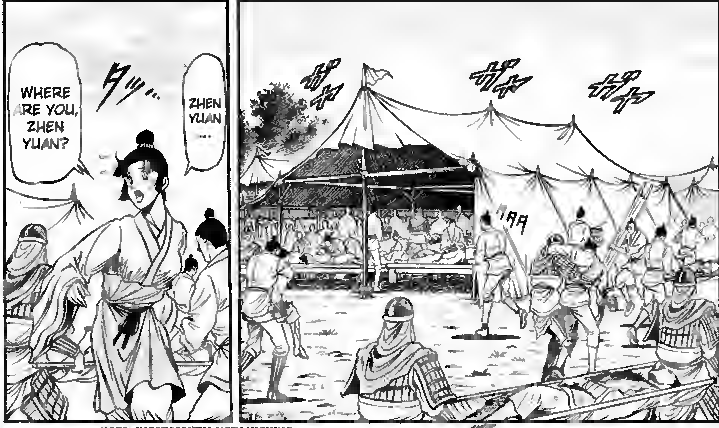
HE REALLY WENT TOO FAR THIS TIME... EVEN LORD LIU BEI IS WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
HMM
SUCCESS-FULLY INFILTRATED THEIR ARMY...
I WONDER IF SHIRO ...
STILL, I BELIEVE THE DRAGON GENERAL MUST BE CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO DO THIS. WE CAN ONLY BELIEVE IN HIM AND AWAIT HIS GOOD NEWS.
GOING ON A RESCUE MISSION IN THE MIDST OF THE ENEMY'S CAMP IS PUSHING THE LIMITS OF PRUDENCE...
I HOPE HE WON'T GET
TOO CARELESS ONCE HE MEETS WITH MASUMI.
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE...


SHOWING JUST HOW WELL TRAINED AND POWERFUL THE WU NAVY IS...
NEWS SPREAD THAT CAO CAO'S HUGE NAVY HAD BEEN DEFEATED...
IT'S SO TERRIBLE AND PITIFUL...
WAS COMPLETELY TAKEN ABACK BY THE ENEMY'S IMMENSE STRENGTH AND THEIR ARMY'S MORALE BEGAN TO SHAKE...
THE PRIDEFUL CAO CAO ARMY BY UNDERESTIMATING THE WU FORCES

DAMN CAI MAO! I WANT TO SEE HOW YOU PLAN TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF OUT OF THIS!
WE FAILED TO TAKE THE LANDING AREA AND NOW THIS HORRIBLE OUTCOME...
I WON'T BLAME HIM TOO MUCH.
HA, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO WORRY...
CHIEF MINISTER...
BUT IT'S NEEDED TO GAUGE ZHOU YU'S ABILITY...
LOSING SOLDIERS AND GENERALS PAINS ME...
!
ガタ
ガタ

MY... MY HAND!
SAVE ME!
SAVE ...
COUGH!
COUGH!
AH... AH...
ZHEN YUAN... ZHEN YUAN...
MEI FANG!
WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOUR SERVANT GIRL?
UH OH.
I BELIEVE SHE MUST BE DISTRESSED BY THE SUFFERING SOLDIERS

ダッ!
CHIEF MINISTER, THE GENERALS ZHANG AND CAI HAVE RETURNED!
...
HMM...
...
AREN'T YOU COMING?
MEI FANG ...
フッ
I WANT TO HELP PATCH UP THESE INJURED SOLDIERS
NO...
ALRIGHT! YOU MAY GO.
HAH, THERE YOU GO AGAIN.

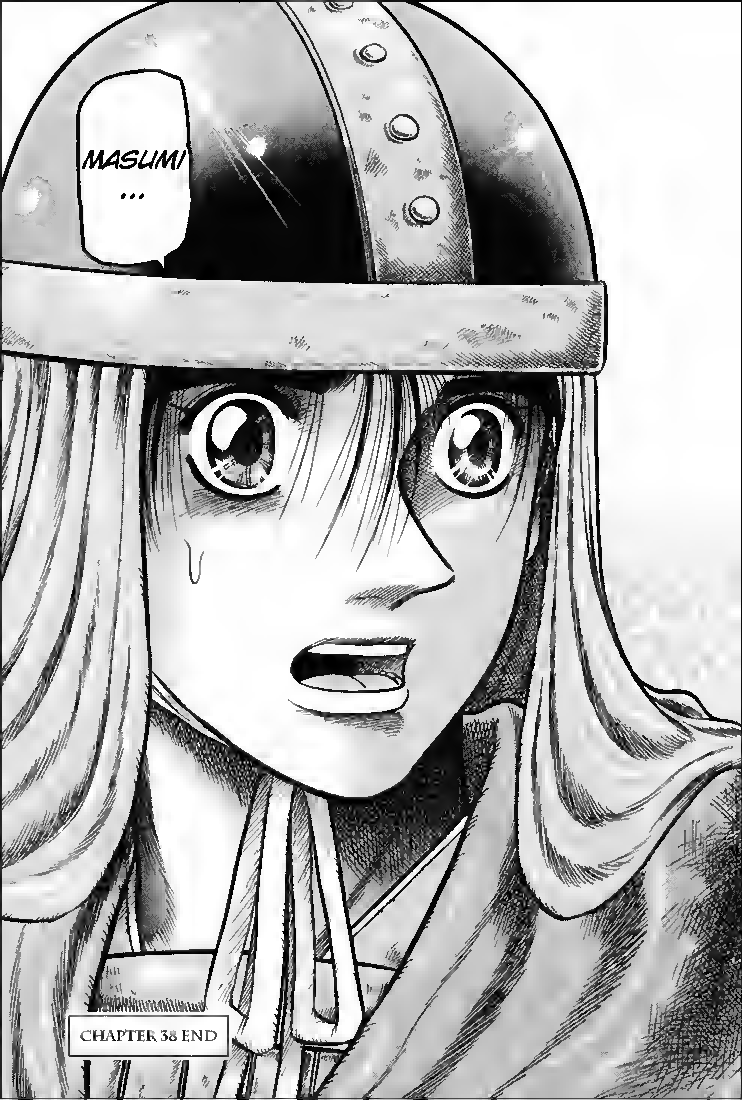


NOTE: SHORT BREATHS, NOT LAUGHING

WHERE COULD MASUMI POSSIBLY BE?
SO WHAT'S NEXT?
HOW CAN I APPROACH HER WITHOUT RAISING SUSPICIONS?
MAYBE BY CAO CAO'S SIDE, BUT...
AH!
I HOPE THAT ZHEN YUAN'S SAFE AND SOUND.
THEY'RE HURT SO BADLY.

!
THAT WOUND LOOKS DEEP!
BUT WHERE IS HE GOING??
!
PLEASE WAIT!
SOLDIER...
IF YOU DON'T HAVE THAT WOUND TENDED TO QUICKLY..
IF YOU WANT THAT WOUND PATCHED UP, YOU SHOULD COME THIS WAY
THIS VOICE...
CAN IT BE?

SH...
SHIRO?


MASUMI
...
CHAPTER 38 END

あなたは、この本を読んで、どのような感想をおもちになりましたか。

このほかに、「講談社コミックス」の中で、どんな本を読まれましたか。

このつぎには、どんな作家の、どんなまんがを読みたいとお考えですか。

コミックス編集の参考にさせていただきたいと思います。「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてにお知らせください。

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ボオオ
ザザ…

是曹軍的3美人!?

RYUURODEN

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- TRANSLATOR: SANDOITCH!
- PROOFREADER: MKOR
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HEY EVERYONE,

TIME FOR A CHRISTMAS RELEASE OF RYUURODEN. WE'RE GOING OUT WITH THE WHOLE VOLUME 10 ALL AT ONCE. OTHER THAN THAT, WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR JAPANESE AND CHINESE TRANSLATORS. EDITORS TOO. SEND A MAIL TO JOIN@JANKENPON.DE AND TELL US ABOUT IT, MORE HELP IS VERY WELCOME! WELL, SEE YA ALL AROUND!

- APEMAN